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THE AMERICAN Legion

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The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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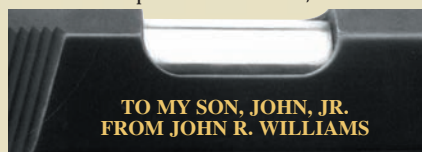
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Eyes on the board

“Corporate Greed Rises From the Depths” (April) is an excellent article. I have served on six boards of directors and found serious flaws. CEOs often attempt to control the board by presenting trivial information that overwhelms the board’s ability to digest it. Important matters are often not addressed, or insufficient information is given to the board for decisions. Committees are not established, and audits are not conducted to determine whether expenditures are proper for the organization’s health. Investors should pay more attention to the composition and conduct of the board of directors than the CEO. If the board does its job, the CEO should not be able to manipulate resources to his or her advantage.



— Lewis R. Ireland, Clarksville, Tenn.

On deaf ears

Michelle Malkin’s article (“No Divine Right,” April) is 100 – percent on target, but how do we convince elected officials? Even our president is on the side of the illegals. We have courts reading into the Constitution what even a grade-school student could tell you was never meant to be the writers’ intent. Beyond prayer, what can we do?

— Jim Bahe, Faribault, Minn.

Don’t coddle illegals

My parents emigrated from Germany in 1930. At the time, a quota was in place, and sponsors were required. We were told to learn the language or go back to Germany. We came legally and learned the language, and we are proud to be Americans. In fact, my brother and I are both World War II veterans. I would like to see legal immigrants from Mexico be required to learn English. I, for one, am sick and tired of hearing, “Press 1 for English, 2 for Spanish.” I am tired of buying products and seeing instructions in both. Why not in Polish, Korean and other languages? Could it be that immigrants from those countries actually learn our language? Perhaps we are patronizing Mexican immigrants too much.

— Joe Schneider, Lansing, Mich.

Care for our own

Most Americans don’t realize how many billions of dollars are spent on illegal aliens – that’s right, billions. All one has to do is cross the border and he becomes our responsibility. I would rather see my tax dollars spent on a veteran who has served our country. Charity begins at home.

— Richard Engwiller, Okeechobee, Fla.

National suicide

I was pleased to read “No Divine Right,” as well as an explanation of the Legion’s position on illegal

immigration. Since both political parties are shamelessly pandering to the so-called Hispanic vote, I think a strong grassroots movement is needed to reverse this rush to national suicide. It is hard to find a politician who will take an opposing stand, though he or she may see the danger in our “come-on-in” policy. Few legislators are brave enough to fight rewarding these scofflaws, who are aided by our own government in their flagrant violation of immigration laws.

— Art Aragon, Albuquerque, N.M.

Tough choices

Michelle Malkin’s hard-hitting, accurate commentary portrays a bleak future for our children and grandchildren if we do not enact real immigration reform in America now. We have a U.S. military presence in 125 foreign countries, but we refuse to defend our own borders because corrupt, cowardly politicians want cheap labor for their corporate campaign contributors. Let’s face it: the whole world would come here if we let it. We take in more immigrants than the rest of the world combined, on track to eventually surpass China and India in population. We must insist on an immediate moratorium on all immigration, deportation of all illegal aliens now here, jail and heavy fines for employers hiring illegal aliens, troops at our borders and the complete repeal of Sen. Ted Kennedy’s 1965 Immigration Act, the chief source of our immigration problems.

— Chris Smith, Somerville, N.J.

Illegal, period

Has our society changed the meaning of the word “illegal”? How do we grant amnesty to a person who has broken the law? If I rob a bank, which is illegal, can I upon prosecution seek amnesty and be granted it? Punish the wrongdoers, especially those who hire them.

— Albert Hess Jr., Baltimore

Too late

“My Heart’s Content” (April) makes me angry and sick to my

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The American Legion Magazine welcomes letters concerning articles that appear in the publication. Be sure to include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters are subject to editing. Send your opinions to:

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stomach. Pat Conroy's mea culpas ring hollow. Like Jane Fonda, he has blood on his hands. I spoke to an Air Force pilot who, shot down and captured over North Vietnam, was a prisoner of war for years. His body bears scars from the torture he endured while Conroy was blasting our efforts. I asked him what effect he thought Jane Fonda and her allies had on his captivity. "I believe we would have been out six months sooner had the North Vietnamese not been encouraged by their efforts," he said. Six months. How many sons, husbands, fathers and brothers lost their lives in combat or captivity during those last six months before hostilities ended?

— John J. Mozart, Brick, N.J.

A new respect

"My Heart's Content" says so much in only two pages. I wonder how many others who didn't serve our country during the Vietnam era feel that way. Conroy the writer has had my respect for a long time. Now I respect him as a man.

— Edward Croxall, East Liverpool, Ohio

More to the story

When I started reading Pat Conroy's book excerpt, I wondered why the magazine would print an article by a Vietnam War draft-dodger. But I figured that if the Legion decided to print it, there had to be more to the story, and there was. In the end, I see courage in the author's act of publicly acknowledging his disloyal acts. It is a good story from which those wavering in their support of the war on terrorism can learn. I imagine this article is going to get you some hot criticism from readers, but for my part, thank you.

— James G. Jaborek, Lompoc, Calif.

Scrap PATRIOT

Victoria Toensing may be an expert on terrorism, but it is my belief that the PATRIOT Act was ill-conceived and is totally unnecessary ("We Need These Laws," April). Our Constitution has served us well for more than

227 years. We had no need for a PATRIOT Act after the USS *Maine* blew up in Cuba or after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. This act puts in place procedures for dealing with "terrorists" that in some ways remind me of how Japanese-Americans were treated during World War II. We look back on that with shame and say it should never have happened. Terrorists can do nothing to us that cannot be dealt with by the Constitution.

Toensing admits these laws can be used for good or bad. If they can be used either way, then they at some point will be.

— Byron E. Sherfy, Cottage Hills, Ill.

None too kind

Well, whoop-de-do for the Yankees ("Surrender at Appomattox," April). Too bad they didn't maintain their charitable outlook when they raped the South during the Reconstruction and when they wouldn't allow Confederate veterans to honor their fallen comrades at Sharpsburg. My forefathers from the 3rd Alabama would take offense at this article.

— O.E. Williams, Ocean Springs, Miss.

Weak gesture

So Japan planted a garden in honor of Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz ("An Honored Adversary," April). That's a rather small reparation for Pearl Harbor, the Bataan Death March, Corregidor, Wake Island and the 90 percent of American POWs butchered in Japanese prison camps.

— Barry C. Fain, Sonoita, Ariz.

Read the fine print

While I agree with a lot of what Alan W. Dowd had to say in his article ("To Make Men Free," April), I take exception to his statement that "every soldier, sailor, airman and Marine wants to serve." I can't tell you the number of officers who have told me that a lot of Guard and Reserve personnel request transfer back home, as they "did not sign up to fight but to get money to go to college." I was proud of the answer that each officer gave these so-called

servicemen: when you signed the dotted line, you signed on for service to your country, not just the benefits you desired.

— James J. Hamm, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

False pretenses

In April's Big Issues, I certainly agree with the more accurate summation of Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., that the Medicare prescription bill that barely passed the House and Senate will leave millions of seniors worse off.

His statement was more detailed than Rep. Tom DeLay's, noting that the bill prohibits Medicare from negotiating to obtain lower drug prices and disallows drug imports from Canada. Drug firms and insurance companies are the big winners.

— Dean Finney, Lexington, Va.

Each day counts

Editor's note: American Legion Department of New York Commander Charles Herschlag received the following letter from an Army Reservist and Legionnaire currently serving in Iraq.

I am in the Army Reserve, currently stationed in Iraq with B Company 489th Engineer Battalion.

We've been in country since Easter Sunday 2003, and you may know we've been extended for another six months. My wife, Jackie, sent me the calendar. I haven't seen or looked at a calendar in more than seven months. We try not to count the days and instead make each day count. But I have to tell you, sir, since I hung the calendar in this old, crumbling building me and my buddies live in, we all flip through the pictures and months. I have to agree with you that our favorite is that of the beautiful lady, our Statue of Liberty.

Thank you so very much for the gift and, as always, I will continue supporting The American Legion and the great post I belong to back home, Greece Post 468 in Rochester, N.Y. They've been giving me great support since I've been away. God bless America.

— Staff Sgt. George A. Dadson Jr., Iraq

Why calling 9-1-1 just isn't enough.

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It can happen in the morning. It can happen at night. It happens to nearly 700 Americans every day. It's sudden cardiac arrest. More troubling still: It strikes people without warning—50% of sudden cardiac deaths in men and 64%

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The American Legion is not a partisan organization. It does, however, engage in the legislative process.

We exist to respond to quality-of-life needs of veterans and their families, teach youth the obligations of U.S. citizenship, work for a strong national defense and uphold the Constitution. To do so requires consistent influence in Washington.

To best serve veterans, we must stay connected to elected officials and maintain a vigilant presence on Capitol Hill. From the creation of the GI Bill to veterans benefits to flag protection, our organization has worked with leaders of all parties.

The American Legion does not endorse candidates. We do endorse causes. And the 2004 elections overflow with issues concerning military personnel and veterans: military pay, the disabled veterans tax, the flag amendment, veterans health care, illegal immigration and national security, among others. In these matters, the president and Congress decide America's course. But we decide who will be the president and Congress.

The right to vote is part and parcel of the freedoms for which we fought and for which many died. Veterans, above all, know the privilege of having a say in who governs these United States.

America remains at war. Our votes will determine the future of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the quality of life for those serving. Extended deployments have resulted in hardships for many reservists and Guardsmen.

Just as important, those fighting the war on terror deserve a strong VA health-care system. When they return home, will they face the same obstacles at VA as do the soldiers and sailors of past wars? VA has virtually shut out Category 8 veterans from health-care access, and Congress is unwilling to allow veterans to pay their own way with Medicare. The 1996 legislation opening VA's doors to every U.S. veteran is all but forgotten. Meanwhile, retired military personnel are the only retired government workers not entitled to receive full disability compensation.

More than any press release or congressional testimony, our greatest hope for change is the individual vote. Strength in numbers: that's what The American Legion's Impact 2004 campaign is about. We have an opportunity to impact this year's races by educating veterans and military personnel on the issues that most concern them, helping them to cast informed and responsible ballots.

Don't tell me your vote doesn't make a difference. Fewer than 600 votes decided the 2000 presidential election; that's one one-hundredth of 1 percent.

Legion posts can emphasize the importance of voting by encouraging veterans, military personnel and their families to vote at the polls or by absentee ballot. Host candidate debates. Conduct voter registration drives. Write letters to the editors of local newspapers, sending copies to senators and representatives. These are effective ways to persuade candidates to take pro-military and pro-veteran positions.

Individually and collectively, know that you can make an impact.



National Commander
John Brieden
Chase Studios

memoranda

IMPACT 2004

Educate your community about issues of importance to veterans and military personnel. Posts are encouraged to sponsor candidate debates, voter registration drives and town-hall meetings. Get started at the Impact 2004 Web site. www.impact04.legion.org

WHERE THEY STAND

America's armed forces and veterans must be informed voters. Visit the Legion's Legislative Action Center online, where you can enter your ZIP code and review the voting records of your senators and representatives. The site also includes contact information for local campaigns. <http://capwiz.com/legion/home/>

SEND US YOUR SUCCESS STORIES

Has your post, district or department hosted a candidate debate or town-hall meeting? Are you working to get out the vote? E-mail us your success stories. www.impact04@legion.org

JUNE 14, FLAG DAY

Where do your legislators stand on flag protection? www.house.gov, www.senate.gov

60 YEARS OF THE GI BILL

June marks the anniversary of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944. The GI Bill was a driving force for postwar prosperity. **See Page 12**

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Lindsay Wagner

Lindsay Wagner
Actress, Mom
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SUPPORT

Rep. Louise Slaughter
D-N.Y.



Art plays a central role in American culture, preserving our history and traditions. The National Endowment for the Arts promotes America's diverse artistic legacy in every corner of this nation, strengthening local economies, improving education for our children and bringing communities together.

The arts industry generates \$134 billion annually in economic activity, provides 4.9 million full-time jobs, creates \$89.4 billion in household income and returns more than \$10 billion to the U.S. Treasury. All this for a meager investment of \$121 million by Congress.

"Just as they support our economy, the arts support our children's futures."

Just as they support our economy, the arts support our children's futures. Studies prove that arts education helps kids perform better, communicate better and behave better.

The arts also play an important role in the military. Art therapy, an effective way to cope with trauma, was developed during World War II. Recovering GIs lifted their spirits by re-enacting old radio scripts and plays. Today, thousands of VA patients enjoy creative activities through recreation therapy services. The NEA will also announce initiatives to bring writing projects and Shakespeare plays to military bases across the United States.

Art records our military history and preserves military traditions. Each branch has history museums that house thousands of pieces of art. These paintings, drawings, sculptures and photographs capture some of the most tragic, heroic and emotional chapters of our nation's history in meaningful ways. And what American wouldn't recognize the spirited songs that distinguish each military branch, played by their very own bands?

The NEA helps ensure that the arts will continue to play an important role in our society and will be accessible to all Americans. Congress' modest investment in the NEA – a tiny fraction of the \$2 trillion federal budget – yields an enormous impact on our economy. The intellectual, educational and therapeutic return on that funding, however, is priceless.

Rep. Cliff Stearns
R-Fla.

OPPOSE



Art provides avenues for individuals to express themselves, to share thoughts or visions. Art is as creative and boundless as the human imagination. Marcel Proust said, "Only through art can we get outside ourselves and know another's view of the universe."

During the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, delegate Charles Pinckney proposed government funding for the arts and sciences. The founding fathers rejected the proposal, deciding the only appropriate role for government in the arts and sciences is providing patent and copyright protection for the work of artists, authors and inventors.

Yet, the federal government eventually found ways to support the arts. With the initiation of the federal income-tax code in 1913, Congress recognized the national benefits of nonprofit organizations, including art groups, by giving them tax-exempt status. Later, contributions to these nonprofit groups were made tax-deductible.

Today, the federal government supports more than 200 programs for the arts and humanities scattered among the federal agencies. Federal funding for the arts and humanities exceeds \$1 billion this year through such organizations as the National Gallery of Art, the Commission of Fine Arts and of course, the National Endowment for the Arts.

The administration has requested an increase for the NEA from \$121 million to \$139.4 million for fiscal year 2005. I believe it should be reduced or, at the very least, kept at the current level.

An economic slowdown, the attacks of Sept. 11 and the resulting war on terrorism have brought about record deficits. It is imperative that every government program be scrutinized with an eye toward reducing government spending.

A 15-percent increase in funding for a program that neither helps veterans meet their health-care needs nor shields us from terrorism is inappropriate. Instead, the NEA cries out for a budget freeze or cuts.

YOUR OPINIONS COUNT

Senators and representatives are interested in constituent viewpoints. You may express your views in writing at the following addresses:

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The Greatest Legislation

The American Legion's creation of the GI Bill produced more than benefits. It created a middle class.

BY KENNETH E. COX

The GI Bill – or more properly, the “Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944” – is lauded by many in Congress as the greatest legislation passed in the 20th century. The late author James Michener went even further, calling it “one of the two or three finest (laws) Congress has ever passed since the Constitution took effect.” However, if one examines its gestation, the act was far from universally supported by many in government, academe or even veterans organizations. Only with the passing of time has the GI Bill been accepted for what it was: a piece of landmark legislation that affected the United States in multiple ways, from a profound impact on racial and ethnic integration to the democratization of higher education and spread of suburbia. Of particular note was the part played in its development and passage by The American Legion.

“The GI Bill turned loose forces that quietly but dramatically transformed America. It originated in the blurred vision of a handful of legislators, journalists and veterans who could not foresee the results,”

OPPOSITE: Keith Peterson poses with his family in 1947. At the time, Peterson was a 20-year-old war veteran attending Iowa University and living in a GI Bill-financed home. *TimeLife Pictures*

writes Michael J. Bennett in the book “When Dreams Came True: The GI Bill and the Making of Modern America.”

The GI Bill has created social options and expectations far beyond its initial intention. In doing so, the bill laid the foundations for the civil-rights campaigns for blacks in the 1960s, women in the 1970s and the disabled in the 1980s.

Historical Precedents. The history of how America cared for its veterans is not a pretty one. Revolutionary War soldiers lost their farms to pay back taxes. Massachusetts veterans under Capt. Daniel Shays, in what was characterized as “Shays’ Rebellion,” attacked the Springfield Arsenal and were subsequently routed by the state militia. President James Monroe did not finally settle the claims of Revolutionary War veterans until 1817.

Civil War veterans mobilized a powerful lobby, the Grand Army of the Republic, and received pensions within 15 years. By the end of 1883, 1 million survivors out of the 2.2 million who served were drawing \$150 million annually in pensions from the government whose total budget that year was \$385.6 million – a budget-buster, if there ever were one.

In reaction to this run on the treasury by Civil War veterans, enough resentment was created that World War I servicemen were discharged with only \$60. Ultimately, World War I veterans collected about \$700 in bonus money, but only after they marched on Washington and were routed by troops under the command of Gen. Douglas MacArthur. In 1935, Congress passed the bill providing for the immediate cash payment of the war bonuses; however, President Franklin D. Roosevelt twice vetoed congressional legislation authorizing payment. Congress overrode his second veto, and full payment was authorized as of June 15, 1936. To preclude similar occurrences and graver consequences when the GI Bill was under consideration, its primary author – Harry W. Colmery, a past national commander of The American Legion – reminded Congress: “After the last war, except for England, this is the only country where men who wore uniforms did not overthrow the government on either side of that conflict.”

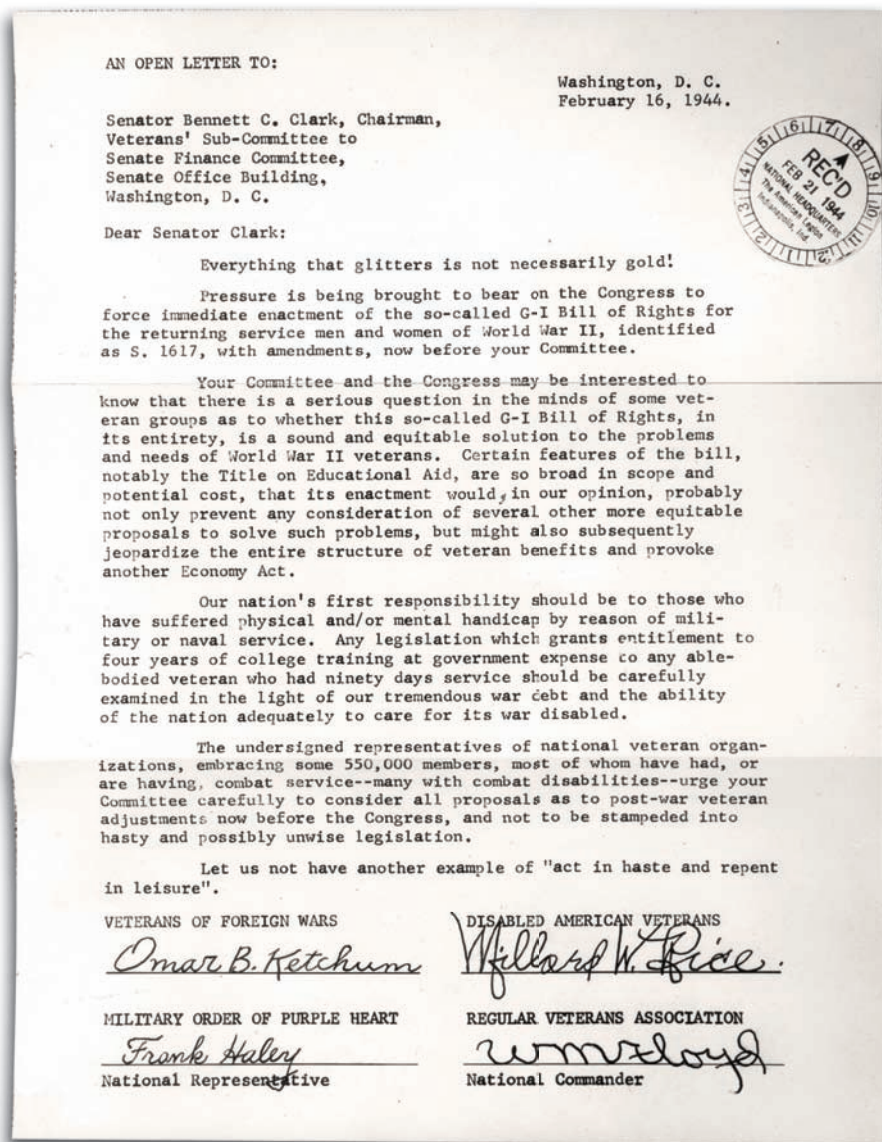
The Legion’s Role. Bennett says three converging factors are responsible for the GI Bill. The first was the revival of the Jeffersonian belief that Ameri-

cans should be yeomen farmers. These Americans were educated citizens and independent property owners, two major features of the GI Bill. They were neither rich nor poor, neither powerful nor wealthy, but self-sustaining, self-respecting people who took care of themselves and could be counted on by their neighbors. The second was the force of common American values that transcended ethnic, economic and class backgrounds forged among members of The American Legion who fought in World War I. These men believed the government owed war veterans the financial resources to make them yeomen. The third force was a coalition of Republican and conservative members of Congress looking for a way to help veterans without making them clients of big government, minions of big unions or wage slaves of big business.

The American Legion is credited with designing the main features of the GI Bill and pushing it through Congress. The Legion overcame objections by other organizations that argued that the bill was too sweeping and could jeopardize the chances of veterans getting any help at all.

In November 1943, The American Legion formed a committee to develop a master plan for post-World War II veterans. Colmery, the Legion's 1936-1937 national commander, wrote the actual legislation for the GI Bill in longhand at Washington's Mayflower Hotel Jan. 6 to 8, 1944, with input from a Legion planning committee. The plan, originally named "The Bill of Rights for GI Joe and Jane," was announced by the Legion on Jan. 9 and introduced as a bill in the House on Jan. 10. The following statement by the Legion accompanied the bill:

"The American Legion proposed this bill first because we believed it to be the duty, the responsibility and the desire of our grateful people to see to it that those who served actively in the armed forces in this war should not be penalized as a



Four veterans organizations sent this open letter to Congress opposing the GI Bill. Past VFW Commander-in-Chief Pat Kearney later played a key role in its passage. *File*

result of war service, but also that upon their return, they should be aided in reaching that position which they might normally have expected had the war not interrupted their careers."

The strongest media supporter by far was William Randolph Hearst, one-time presidential aspirant and instigator of the Spanish-American War. Bennett has attributed as an accidental catalyst for the GI Bill's enactment the fact that Rep. Andrew Jackson May, D-Ky., in reaction to adverse publicity, warned two Hearst newspaper reporters that they would need the services of

an undertaker if they didn't back off. If his writers had not been threatened, it is unknown if Hearst would have thrown the full resources of his enormous newspaper empire into the battle for the bill or if the bill in its final form would have been enacted when it was.

Hearst thought that earlier administration plans for returning veterans were inadequate. An isolationist, Hearst could embrace the GI Bill as a popular cause with which he could "couple" alternatives for resources that would hinder Roosevelt's internationalist schemes.

Hearst's primary agent was his editor, Walter Howey, who significantly contributed to the passage of the GI Bill by his adroit use of the media.

Opposition. Early on, veterans groups became far greater obstacles to the passage of the GI Bill than any competing interest group or government entity. Upon introduction of the bill into the House, Veterans of Foreign Wars complained that the Legion's proposed rates of mustering out pay were too high. In lieu of an education bill, VFW advocated a program of demobilization pay and compensation similar to the deferred compensation for World War I veterans. Part of the compensation would be paid upon discharge, the rest in monthly installments.

Specifically, VFW, along with the Disabled American Veterans, the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Regular Veterans Association, expressed concern to Congress about educational benefits under the GI Bill. In a classic "rice-bowl" confrontation, they warned that the bill's educational component was so broad in scope and potential cost that its enactment would probably not only prevent any considerations of several more equitable proposals, but might also subsequently jeopardize the entire structure of veterans' benefits. These groups indicated that they were not opposed to educational benefits, per se, but rather they would go too far and be the "golden egg that killed the goose." VFW favored a more piecemeal approach to veterans benefits rather than a large omnibus bill that many felt had little chance of passage.

University of Chicago President Robert Maynard Hutchins and Harvard President James B. Conant were outspoken in their initial opposition to the educational provisions of the GI Bill. They saw it as a misguided substitute for a public-works program that would far more effectively deal with the massive unemployment they and business

leaders expected after the war. In their opinion, most veterans would simply be unable to meet academic standards. As the GI Bill was in the final stages of passage, Conant declared, "In education, as in all matters, we must guard the doctrine of local responsibility." Reportedly, 56 educational institutions and 10 governors called the GI Bill "the most serious threat to the existing state and local control of education that has yet appeared in this country." Col. Francis T. Spaulding, a former dean at the School of Graduate Education at Harvard, suggested giving veterans a three-month furlough. After that, if they were jobless, they could return to the military for a training program.

The Role of Congress. Congressional proponents were white, middle-class, small-town Republicans or conservative Democrats with diverse backgrounds, operating in a liberal Democratic administration. Members of Congress instrumental in the enactment were Rep. John Rankin, D-Miss., a segregationist and anti-Semite; Sen. Joel Bennett Clark, D-Mo., an isolationist and consistent opponent of the Roosevelt New Deal, who had briefly opposed Social Security; and Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers, R-Mass., who served with the Red Cross in Europe during World War I. Rogers was responsible for the legislation that created the Women's Army Corps and had spoken out against Hitler's persecution of the Jews. Rep. John Gibson, D-Ga., who caused a stalemate when the bill was in joint conference, played a dramatic role in the final passage of the bill.

In December 1943, the House leadership charged the Military Affairs Committee Chairman Andrew Jackson May with writing a World War II bonus bill for those who were discharged due to service-connected injuries. The target population was popularly known as the "Forgotten Battalion." The American Legion proposed a \$500 bonus.

May, after giving the original bill strong verbal support, drafted a revision paying no more than \$300 and went home to Kentucky to celebrate Christmas. He refused to report the bill out of committee in time for action on the floor before the holiday.

American Legion National Commander Warren Atherton used information provided by Hearst's editor, Walter Howey, to bring the stories of the 1,536 members of the Forgotten Battalion to Congress. This information, Atherton said, "took the concerns of veterans out of the providence of planners and into the world of politics." In his testimony, Atherton bluntly warned members of Congress, "I should not like to face the wrath of 11 million veterans after this war if our treatment of their disabled has been as shabby, indifferent and lax as the story of the last two years would indicate."

On Jan. 10, 1944, Rankin filed the "Bill of Rights for GI Joe and Jane" proposed by The American Legion in response to May's refusal to act on the bonus bill for disabled servicemen. The \$300 bonus bill finally cleared a House-Senate conference on Jan. 21, and May's earlier confrontation with Hearst reporters set the wheels in motion. Hearst offered all the facilities of his organization to help the Legion ensure passage of the pending GI Bill. The stakes were higher now: not only was there the issue of a bonus, but also there was a much more far-reaching piece of legislation as proposed by the Legion.

The Role of the Administration.

In 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt – at an American Legion convention in Chicago – told the assembled Legionnaires, "... no person because he wore a uniform must thereafter be placed in a special class of beneficiaries over and above other citizens." He would change his position during World War II.

After much political maneuvering by Congress and the administration, Roosevelt signed a

veterans vocational rehabilitation act on March 24, 1943. It included two provisions covering training that would later be extended to the able-bodied in the GI Bill: training could last as long as four years, and all those in training would receive a monthly stipend equivalent to full disability pay. A third provision, that all recipients had to have an honorable discharge, was modified in the GI Bill to “an other-than-dishonorable discharge.”

The passage of the vocational rehabilitation act forced the administration to focus on servicemen as veterans, not just as disposable cogs in a war machine. The National Resource Planning Board, anticipating a significant wave of unemployment with returning servicemen re-entering the work force, initially recommended holding veterans in the service after the war. VA Administrator Gen. Frank T. Hines, remembering the plight of World War I veterans, argued, “In the long run, it was better socially and cheaper economically to keep the men in service than to create a period of unemployment which would necessitate large expenditures for relief and welfare.”

On the positive side, the NRPB plan later included in its proposals a variation of the Wisconsin Educational Bonus Law of 1919. That law provided any veteran who had served for three months prior to Nov. 1, 1918, \$30 per month to attend any nonprofit elementary or high school, technical institution, college or university in Wisconsin. If a program was not provided in Wisconsin, the veteran could go to school in another state. The NRPB also considered, but rejected as too expensive, a Canadian law passed in October 1941 that provided educational benefits up to the post-graduate level, as well as unemployment benefits and business assistance.

By early 1943, the Roosevelt administration had come up with little more than a rudimentary proposal for a three-month

furlough and one year’s vocational training for all veterans, and three years of college education for a carefully selected few. By June, several members of Congress – responding to pressure from veterans organizations – had introduced bills with more extensive and varied benefits. Ultimately, 640 bills were introduced. Harry Hopkins, the president’s closest adviser, warned Roosevelt, “Unless something is done soon on the legislation of returning soldiers, the opposition may steal the thunder.” On July 28, 1943, in a fireside chat titled “First Crack in the Axis,” Roosevelt said:

“While concentrating on military victory, we are not neglecting the planning of things to come, the freedoms which we know will make for more decency and greater justice throughout the world. Among many other things we are, today, laying plans for the return to civilian life of our gallant men and women in the armed services. They must not be demobilized into an environment of inflation and unemployment, to a place on a bread line, or on a corner selling apples. We must, this time, have plans ready – instead of waiting to do a hasty, inefficient, and ill-considered job at the last moment ...

“But the members of the armed forces have been compelled to make greater economic sacrifice and every other kind of sacrifice than the rest of us, and they are entitled to definite action to help take care of their special problems.”

Roosevelt’s speech created the public impression that the administration had a comprehensive veterans program and had cleared the first hurdle in getting a bill through Congress. Although Roosevelt had repudiated his 1933 position, no specific legislative proposals actually had been negotiated nor real consideration given to guiding any proposals through the congressional labyrinth. In November 1943, the administration through Sen. Elbert D. Thomas, D-Utah, a loyal New Dealer, introduced a bill that

combined the inputs of the NRPB and another planning group under Brig. Gen. Frederick C. Osborn that recommended using the Wisconsin and Canadian programs as models. It was reported out of committee on Feb. 7, 1944. By that time, however, the Legion-sponsored GI Bill pre-empted any consideration of the administration’s proposal.

Passage. Clark introduced the GI Bill into the Senate on Jan. 11, 1944. A co-founder of The American Legion, Clark viewed opposition by some veterans groups as an excuse for members of Congress to oppose the bill. He took action accordingly. By the inclusion of a specific amount of money for VA hospitalization in the bill, VFW withdrew its earlier objections and lent its full support for the GI Bill. Now the bill had the support of the two largest veterans organizations. DAV remained opposed, as it took particular exception to the “52-20” Club unemployment provision of the bill. The “52-20” Club would provide \$20 per week for a year to veterans in making their adjustment to civilian life. After log rolling with Sen. Robert Wagner, D-N.Y., concerning the employment provisions of the Wagner Act, the Senate version of the GI Bill was approved without a dissenting vote on March 24, 1944.

Rankin, the chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Legislation, introduced The American Legion-drafted GI Bill in the House on Jan. 10, 1944. Rankin was known to be difficult to get along with, especially for liberal New Dealers. It was conjectured that earlier disability legislation had been sent to May’s Military Affairs Committee owing to Rankin’s reputation. But once in charge, Rankin firmly refused to allow others to take control of the legislation.

The GI Bill was a classic turf battle: the Education and Labor committee wanted control of the educational aspects of the GI Bill, and the administration also wanted to link educational opportunity with a national

employment policy. When the bill finally got to the House-Senate conference, pressure built to vest responsibility for job placement and unemployment titles in the Labor Department's Employment Service, overseen by a board headed by the VA administrator.

Rankin was concerned that blacks would take undue advantage of the unemployment provisions of the bill, the so-called "52-20" Club. In a letter to a constituent, he said, "We have 50,000 negroes in the service from our state, and, in my opinion, if the bill should pass in its present form, a vast majority of them would remain unemployed for at least another year, and a great many white men would do the same." No one mentioned publicly that providing the same \$20 a week stipend to black as well as white veterans would weaken, if not entirely break down, pay scales determined by race. These were not only sanctioned by custom but were legal under the National Recovery Act.

In mid-April, a month after Senate passage of the GI Bill, House Minority Leader Joseph Martin, R-Mass., queried Rankin about when it would be reported out of his committee. Rankin responded, "This is the most far-reaching and most explosive bill ever to reach Congress. The committee is not going to be stampeded into bringing out a half-baked bill." At this point, the editorial pages of *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times* and *San Francisco Chronicle* remained aloof. Only the Hearst papers and *The Army Times* took cognizance of the stalled bill in the House. Using newspapers, movies, and radio orchestrated by the Legion and the Hearst papers, a subsequent public affairs blitz finally convinced the members of the House Veterans Committee to take an unusual action and override Rankin. One Hearst reporter said Rankin was willing to sacrifice the whole bill rather than grant the new veterans unemployment compensation.



President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the GI Bill into law before a group of Legionnaires and members of Congress on June 22, 1944. **File**

GI Bill by era

The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 was innovative in its scope, but it was only the first of several different "GI Bills" to follow.

World War II GI Bill

Eligibility: 90 days of other-than-dishonorable military service after Sept. 16, 1940

Benefits: Education and training; loan guarantee for a home, farm or business; unemployment pay for \$20 per week for 52 weeks; job-finding assistance, top priority for building materials for VA hospitals; military review of dishonorable discharges.

Cost of education benefits: \$14.5 billion

Korean War GI Bill

Eligibility: 90 days of other-than-dishonorable military service after June 27, 1950

Benefits: Education and training based on length of service; loan guarantees for home, farm or business; unemployment compensation became a state function.

Cost of education benefits: \$4.5 billion

Post-Korean Vietnam-era GI Bill

Eligibility: 180 days of other-than-dishonorable military service (any part of which was after Jan. 31, 1955)

Benefits: Home, farm and business loan guarantees (now a permanent benefit awarded to veterans regardless of era served, although minimum requirements for days served must be met); education and training benefits kicked in retroactively after June 1, 1966, and also applied to those still on active-duty.

Cost of education benefits: \$42 billion

Montgomery GI Bill

Eligibility: Honorably discharged active-duty and selected reserve and Guard veterans with high school diplomas or GEDs, who fall into four specific eligibility categories. To determine eligibility, call 1-888-GI-Bill-1 or visit Gibill.va.gov.

Benefits: Up to 36 months of education and training benefits. Servicemembers must contribute to the program while on duty in order to receive benefits.

Cost of education benefits: \$12.9 billion (through 2003)

Source: Department of Veterans Affairs

The House subsequently approved the bill without a dissenting vote.

Final Law. Although final agreement was reached on the education and loan provisions of the bill, the House-Senate conference deadlocked 3-3 on the House side over the job placement and unemployment titles. The tie-breaker would be Rep. Gibson, who was back in his Georgia home recovering from an illness. Gibson instructed Rankin to register his vote by proxy in favor of the Senate position, which supported equal unemployment benefits for all veterans. Rankin later refused. Deadlock would doom the bill unless closure was reached when the conference was scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. June 8. Rep. Pat Kearney, R-N.Y., a past VFW commander-in-chief and a staunch advocate of the bill, boldly spelled out what was at stake.

“Get John Gibson up here from Georgia,” Kearney told John Stelle, head of The American Legion’s GI Bill Committee and a former Illinois governor. “He’ll vote the right way. He’s the only one who can save the bill.”

It was June 7, and time was running out. Stelle tried to call Gibson’s home only to be notified by an operator that calls to Georgia were being delayed five to six hours, a common practice in wartime America. Gibson was finally reached at 11 p.m. and driven 200 miles by a U.S. Army vehicle to Jacksonville, Fla., where he was placed on a specially cleared Eastern Airlines flight. He arrived in Washington at 6:37 a.m. to cast the deciding vote at 10 a.m., clearing the GI Bill from the joint conference. The Senate and House approved the bill on June 12 and June 13, respectively.

President Roosevelt signed the bill June 22 in the presence of the many Legionnaires who were intimately involved in all aspects of it. “Both the dimensions of the legislation and the speed with which it was developed were unprecedented and unparalleled

in American history.”

In its enacted form, the GI Bill provided six benefits:

- Education and training.
- Loan guaranty for a home, farm, or business.
- Unemployment pay of \$20 a week for up to 52 weeks.
- Job-finding assistance.
- Top priority for building materials for VA hospitals.
- Military review of dishonorable discharges.

Cultural Ramifications. The GI Bill was color-blind. Social Security had excluded farmers and domestics, the jobs most likely to include blacks. If someone was good enough to fight and possibly die for America, he or she was good enough to enjoy all the rights of an American. The GI Bill enabled Oliver Brown, the plaintiff in *Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kan.*, to buy his own home; it paid for the law-school education of Edward W. Brooke, the first black to serve in the Senate since Reconstruction; and it provided the stimulus for James Meredith to break the race barrier and attend the University of Mississippi.

The total education cost of the World War II bill was \$14.5 billion, with the per-capita expense running at \$1,858. The Labor Department estimated that the government actually profited, since veterans earned more and, therefore, paid higher taxes. The Labor Department estimated that a male college graduate could be expected to make \$250,000 more in a working lifetime than a high-school graduate and, of course, pay taxes on the extra income. “The federal tax on this added income alone,” the V.A.

commented, “will be several times the cost of GI education.”

Impact on Academe. When the initial program ended in July 1956, about 7.8 million out of 15.4 million veterans had enrolled in some sort of educational or training program. Total college and university enrollment leaped from 1,676,856 in 1945, with 88,000 veterans attending, to 2,078,095 in 1946 with veterans accounting for 1,013,000, or 48.7 percent, of the total. In 1947, veteran enrollment peaked at 1,150,000, 49.2 percent of total attendance.

The GI Bill overturned the social and economic structure by shattering forever the idea that those who were not already members of the middle class

could go to college. It also reshaped what was being taught in college, as veterans demanded that course material be more realistic. That Sgt. Henry Kissinger went to Harvard, rather than returning to the accounting program at CCNY, can be partially attributed to the GI Bill.

“Through the GI Bill, we pursued higher education, and after graduating we became involved in our communities and the political process,” said Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, a World War II Medal of

Notable GI Bill Beneficiaries

The GI Bill impacted Americans from all walks of life. Whether one was a struggling wage-earner applying for a mortgage or a college student needing tuition assistance, veterans relied on the benefits to help them achieve their version of the American dream.

Among the famous recipients of GI Bill benefits were:

President George H.W. Bush
President Gerald Ford
Vice President Al Gore
Sen. Robert Dole
Sen. John Glenn
Sen. Daniel Inouye
Chief Justice William Rehnquist
Clint Eastwood
Ed McMahon
Paul Newman
Jonathan Winters

Honor recipient.

Perhaps the major impact on higher education is that it was financed through students, rather than through institutions. Clark Kerr, former president of the University of California, remarked that the precedent set by the GI Bill would take permanent form in the Higher Education Act of 1972, despite the opposition of

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Resolved: The American Legion wants a better GI Bill

The American Legion, pivotal to the creation of the original GI Bill, continues to fight for better veteran educational benefits. There are currently seven national resolutions passed by The American Legion pertaining to the GI Bill that are still in effect.

Resolution No. 11, passed in 1994, marked the 50th anniversary of the GI Bill by recalling “the wisdom, foresight and leadership of (American Legion) members in the creation of this legislation.”

Five of the resolutions were passed at the 2002 National Convention in Charlotte, N.C. **Resolution 260** notes that a presidential commission identified 105 military professions for which civilian credentialing is required. It resolved that the Montgomery GI Bill pay for all necessary civilian license fees, certification examinations and necessary preparatory courses.

Although **Resolution No. 266** supports retaining the 10-year expiration period to use Montgomery GI Bill benefits to encourage recently discharged veterans to complete their education in a timely manner, it also resolves that VA “provide a waiver to any eligible veteran beyond the 10-year limit on a case-by-case basis.”

the then-Carnegie Commission on Higher Education and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Kerr suggests that by choosing to finance higher education by giving money to individuals rather than institutions, Congress discouraged states from reducing institutional financial support for their colleges, and universities; sidestepped problems of federal financial aid to church-supported colleges and universities; and avoided internecine warfare over competitive and changing formulas for aid, that is, bills favoring small institutions or ones strong in science. Since the bill paid full tuition at any college, many veterans opted for the top Ivy League schools that otherwise would have been beyond their reach.

The GI Bill would create a new – and largely unrecognized – mechanism through which the government would regulate and provide, but not do. It would take nearly 50 years before the success of that mechanism would be recognized by social thinkers. The GI Bill has only lately been recognized as a seminal social program, like the British Health Service, which also came into existence as a response to social demands after World War II. The GI Bill empowered individuals to make decisions that would

not have been possible a generation earlier. It also enabled educational institutions to teach before a wider and more diverse student body.

Over the years, the GI Bill changed the face of America. It has had a ripple effect: education became a necessity; mortgage lending was altered to the point that home ownership is a national goal. The Levittowns and other housing developments throughout the United States were directly attributable to the loan-guaranty section of the bill. And, as the suburbs grew, so did the interconnecting highway system and a different way of working, shopping and living. It laid the foundation for blacks hardened by war and educated by the GI Bill, to demand equal treatment under the law.

A Living Law. Subsequent GI Bills have been enacted. The Korean War GI Bill, more limited in scope than its World War II predecessor, was approved by President Truman in 1952 and ended in January 1965. Unlike the federally funded unemployment allowance for World War II veterans, it made payment of unemployment compensation a state function. The Post-Korea Vietnam Era GI Bill was approved by President Lyndon Johnson in March 1965 and ended in Decem-

Perhaps the most ambitious resolution pertaining to the GI Bill is **No. 267**. It notes that GI Bill benefits have not kept up with the cost of education and that other programs such as Americorps and Pell Grants offer greater benefits. It resolves, among other things, that the dollar amount of the entitlement be indexed annually to the average cost of education, that a monthly tax-free subsistence be indexed and that the current military payroll deduction of \$1,200 be terminated for those who wish to participate.

Resolution No. 284 calls for the current GI Bill to reimburse veterans for correspondence courses at a rate of 90 percent of tuition. The Charlotte convention also produced **Res. No. 284**, which resolved that The American Legion support the development of on-the-job training opportunities for eligible veterans through the Montgomery GI Bill.

Last year, the National Executive Committee passed **Res. No. 27**, which called for a \$1,200 death benefit to be awarded when veterans pay for Montgomery GI Bill eligibility but die before using the benefits.

ber 1989. The VA spent more than \$42 billion on this bill, far more than the \$4.5 billion for the Korea-era bill or the \$14.5 billion for the original. Two contributory programs, the Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Program and the Montgomery GI Bill are currently in force, as are bills for Selected Reservists and survivors of servicemembers who meet certain conditions.

The American Legion can reflect with pride on its involvement in the GI Bill. In identifying the specific developments and events that have most influenced the development of the post-capitalist and postsocialist societies, Peter Drucker wrote, “My own candidate would be the American GI Bill of Rights after World War II which gave every returning American soldier the money to attend a university – something that would have made absolutely no sense 30 years before. The GI Bill of Rights – and the enthusiastic response to it on the part of America’s veterans – signaled the shift to the knowledge society. Future historians may consider it the most important event of the 20th century.” 🌿

The late Kenneth E. Cox, Ph.D., wrote this article in 2002.

Article design: Holly K. Soria



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AGENT ORANGE

Haze of Deception

Illustration: Steve Stone



Vietnam War veterans possess new evidence to press Washington for a major study of troop exposure.

BY JAMES V. CARROLL

More than 30 years after coming home, scores of Vietnam War veterans still ask: “Why are we ill?” Thousands have gone to their graves without answers. Standing in the way is the U.S. government’s unwillingness, as yet, to produce a definitive study on Agent Orange and the chemical defoliant’s longterm effects on those exposed to it during the war. Time has passed. Evidence has mounted. Still, no study. New research, however, adds critical mass to the case veterans can make, once again, for a conclusive epidemiological study to determine the truth and establish accountability.

The U.S. military used Agent Orange to poison thick vegetation that concealed enemy locations during the war. The defoliant also is believed to have poisoned many of the people who handled it or passed through sprayed locations. After the war, a conspicuous percentage of veterans contracted various cancers or diabetes, and birth defects occurred at a high rate among their children. VA compensation and care were denied. The reason: no proof that anyone’s illnesses were linked to exposure. Absent a definitive study, that reason stands today.

VA now compensates and cares for veterans suffering from a short list of conditions whose link to Agent Orange is described as “presumptive” by the Institute of Medicine. Dozens of other conditions await serious study. Until that happens, veterans will continue to die wondering if their lives were indeed wrecked by the toxic chemicals that came in those orange-striped barrels, or if some other explanation exists. Either way, Vietnam War veterans want the truth, and they want it now. They want to know when the study is coming.

VA and other government agencies have maintained that scientific conclusions regarding Agent Orange are impossible without large epidemiological studies of cause and effect – studies they appear unwilling to undertake. Despite spending more than \$200 million on Agent Orange research, VA, the Air Force and other government agencies have failed to provide answers about whether exposure caused specific health problems. The closest thing to an admission of responsibility by the government are presumptions that certain adverse health conditions are likely to be linked to Agent Orange exposure.

But now, as this controversy nears its fourth unresolved decade, there is hope that things will change.

New papers published by a Columbia University research team may provide veterans the ammunition they need to force the government to honor a decades-old congressional mandate to produce the study. The Columbia University research produced computerized exposure methodologies that have recently prompted IOM to urge quick action.

Elected officials are speaking up, as well. Congressional leaders recently sent a bipartisan letter to VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi insisting the department contract out the large-scale study veterans have sought for nearly 40 years.

“If scientific evidence suggests Agent Orange exposure is somehow related to degenerative conditions that they suffer later in life, then they should be awarded disability compensation and treatment for those conditions at VA,” American Legion National Commander John Brieden says.

“The compensation is meager in comparison to the price they paid. The next logical and long-overdue step, which The American Legion and the IOM strongly urge, is for the U.S. government to fund an epidemiological study of Vietnam veterans’ health.”

In the Beginning. Scientists objected to the use of defoliants early in the Vietnam War. The Federation of American Scientists urged the government to not commit “ecocide” in Vietnam through indiscriminate spraying of defoliants. The American Association for the Advancement of Science petitioned Department of Defense Secretary Robert McNamara to initiate a study on the short-term and long-term consequences of Agent Orange on the Vietnamese environment. Other scientists urged President Johnson to adhere to an international ban on chemical warfare. Early in 1967, more than 5,000 scientists – a number of them Nobel laureates – delivered a second petition asking Johnson to end Agent Orange use in Vietnam.

Stung by the swarm of criticism, DoD lobbed a 37-word fusillade intended to quell domestic opposition. “Qualified scientists, both inside and outside government, and in governments of other nations, have judged that serious adverse consequences will not occur,” the DoD proclaimed. “Unless we had confidence in these judgments, we would not continue to employ these materials.”

The war ended. Soldiers came home. But the Agent Orange saga had only just begun. Previously confined to academia, the White House, DoD and VA, the debate expanded from the health of jungles to the health of veterans who fought in them. The struggle spilled into the streets as Vietnam War veterans began to appear in greater numbers at VA hospitals and outpatient clinics, blaming Agent Orange for their illnesses.

VA’s top-level officials rejected any claims that Agent Orange made veterans sick. Their illnesses were not recognized; their claims rendered no compensation or care. What appeared to matter most to the government was that veterans’ unexplained illnesses not be linked to Vietnam or to Agent Orange, according to authors Richard Severo and Lewis Milford in their 1989 book, “The Wages of War.”

Not everyone at VA during that era was tuned to the company line. Maude deVictor, a VA benefits counselor in Chicago, decided to educate herself about Agent Orange after veterans told her they suspected the defoliant was the cause of their ailments. She pored over maps. She tried to determine if Operation Ranch Hand aircraft sprayed ground troops. She talked to chemical companies that manufactured Agent Orange. VA’s top brass ordered her to stop asking questions.

Frustrated by her agency’s disregard for Vietnam War veterans, deVictor went public. She contacted Chicago television reporter Bill Kurtis. His report, “Agent Orange: Vietnam’s Deadly Fog,” aired March 23, 1978.

The report horrified VA, which shifted blame for the growing Agent Orange controversy onto the media. Journalists were more interested in sensationalism than facts, said Vern Rogers, VA’s Chicago spokesman.

VA leaders began to worry and met behind closed doors with two consultants, Drs. Walter Melvin and Ben Holder. Melvin was a former scientific director for the Air Force. Holder was medical director for Dow Chemical, the major producer of Agent Orange. According to Severo and Milford, witnesses at the meeting said Melvin made it clear he did not believe Agent Orange was harmful to humans.

VA rewarded Melvin’s support by appointing him to do a study on an industrial disaster involving dioxin. Dr. Gerrit Schepers of VA’s Washington office, a former researcher for Monsanto Chemical (one of the Agent Orange manufacturers), was chosen to lead VA’s new Agent Orange Policy Group. The appointments gave veterans little confidence that VA desired to find objective evidence linking Agent Orange to their unexplained illnesses.

Media pressure mounted. A series of articles addressing the claims and counter claims between Vietnam War veterans and VA was published in *The New York Times* on Memorial Day

weekend, 1979. The newspaper report, according to a number of veterans, stirred activity. Soon after publication of the articles, the U.S. Air Force announced it would conduct a health study of 1,000 or more Operation Ranch Hand pilots and other handlers.

Veterans and The American Legion were skeptical. So, too, was the National Academy of Sciences, which announced that the objectives and parameters of the Air Force study were flawed. It had too few study subjects. Most serious adverse health effects could not be identified in a group so small. NAS also suggested a conflict of interest. After all, the Air Force could find itself liable to compensate victims if results of the study suggested or confirmed a link. The Air Force Health Study on Agent Orange – the Ranch Hand study – continued, however, and data from the study is still analyzed by the Air Force today. Ranch Handlers have been developing Type II diabetes and

prostate cancer at such a high rate that even this too-small study has found positive effects.

Congress Intervenes. By the end of 1979, Congress appropriated nearly \$100 million for VA to conduct its own Agent Orange study. Dr. Gary Spivey, a professor of public health at UCLA, was chosen to design it. Spivey soon proved himself less than objective when he publicly attacked proposed California legislation intended to provide veterans information about possible health effects from Agent Orange exposure.

By 1981, The American Legion was fed up with the foot-dragging. Veterans were dying of conditions suspected to be related to Agent Orange exposure while VA's inconclusive studies continued to forestall its inevitable responsibility. Delegates at the 1981 American Legion National Convention called for an immediate independent study.

Congress also was losing patience. House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery asked VA to transfer the Agent Orange study to the Centers for Disease Control. VA soon did so, but while protocol was still being developed, Rep. Thomas Daschle, D-S.D., introduced a bill to recognize a service-connection presumption for some of the illnesses veterans described. Daschle's move was prompted by his belief that enough scientific literature existed to at least give them the benefit of a doubt.

More than five years after the fall of Saigon, Vietnam War veterans finally felt they were being heard. But soon, they were disappointed. Daschle's bill died. And a few years later, CDC told Congress it was scientifically impossible to develop a definitive protocol to determine the adverse health effects of exposure to Agent Orange, even though the CDC itself had already published an Agent Orange study

Terms of Impairment

Agent Orange: A chemical cocktail containing nearly equal parts 2,4-D (2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid) and 2,4,5-T (2,4,5-Trichlorophenoxyacetic acid).

The U.S. military used a number of herbicides in Vietnam between 1961 and 1971. Agent Orange was sprayed between 1965 and 1971. Far smaller amounts of herbicides used before combat troops arrived in 1965 were much more heavily contaminated with dioxin, at least double previous government estimates, according to a study authored by Jeanne Mager Stellman and a team at Columbia University and published in the journal *Nature*.

Agent Orange got its name from the orange identifying stripe on 55-gallon drums used to store and transport it. It was most often sprayed from fixed-wing aircraft. Near U.S. encampments, Army helicopters sprayed defoliants and ground troops also sprayed on foot with backpacks. Trucks equipped with sprayers (buffalo turbines) were used for hard-to-reach targets and engineering work.

Agent Orange was intended to deprive the enemy of cover by killing plants and stripping leaves from trees along supply routes and around U.S. military encampments. Herbicides – mostly the arsenic-containing Agent Blue – also were used to destroy crops intended to feed the enemy.

Untold numbers of Americans, as well as Vietnamese combatants on both sides of the war, were directly or indirectly exposed to Agent Orange and dioxin. Up to 4 million civilians, living in or near more than 3,000 Vietnamese villages, also were in the direct line of spray, according to the Stellman study published in *Nature*.

CDC: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is the lead federal agency for protecting the health and safety of people – at home and abroad. CDC serves as the national focus for developing and applying disease prevention and control, environmental health, and health promotion and education

activities designed to improve the health of the people of the United States. It abandoned the major epidemiological study in the late 1980s.

Dioxin: Manufacture of 2,4,5-T produces the contaminant 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin. TCDD, commonly known as dioxin, one of the most toxic chemicals known.

Epidemiology: The study of the relationships of various factors determining the frequency and distribution of diseases in the human community.

IOM: The Institute of Medicine is one of the National Academies and provides science-based advice on matters of biomedical science, medicine and health. The nonprofit Institute provides a vital service by working outside the framework of government to ensure scientifically informed analysis and independent guidance.

National Academies: The National Academies perform a public service by bringing together committees of experts in all areas of scientific and technological endeavor. These experts serve pro bono to address critical national issues and give advice to the federal government and the public. Four organizations comprise the Academies: the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council.

Operation Ranch Hand: The military code name for spraying herbicides from U.S. Air Force aircraft in Southeast Asia from 1962 through 1971. The spray fell mostly on the forests of South Vietnam. The purpose for using herbicides on non-cropland was to remove vegetation cover used by the enemy for concealment.

Presumptive Service Connection: Authority for VA to establish entitlement for diseases without the necessity of medical evidence to establish an etiological nexus between military service and a disease.

on birth defects in Vietnam War veterans' children.

Believing that government could not – or would not – do a major study, The American Legion decided in 1983 to collaborate with Jeanne Mager Stellman of the Columbia University School of Public Health, and Steven D. Stellman, then with the American Cancer Society. The Stellmans and John Sommer Jr. of The American Legion, along with thousands of volunteer Legionnaires, rolled up their sleeves and went to work. The Columbia University-Legion research team published findings in 1988.

"We found that veterans exposed to Agent Orange exhibited higher rates of non-cancerous fatty tumors, skin rashes with blisters and adult acne," Jeanne Mager Stellman said in 2003. "We discovered higher rates of fatigue, physical depression, colds and body aches. In addition, we found that wives of Vietnam veterans who had been exposed to Agent Orange suffered from higher rates of miscarriages."

The Stellmans also looked at how Vietnam War veterans were doing in civilian life. "We discovered that men engaged in high levels of combat during the Vietnam War appeared less happy and satisfied with their lives," Steven Stellman said. "They were at greater risk for bad marriages and showed higher levels of anxiety."

The team also concluded that combat Vietnam War veterans

were prone to greater use of alcohol, cigarettes and prescription drugs than those who did not see action. They earned less money than those soldiers who did not fight in Southeast Asia.

The 1988 study was subjected to rigorous peer review and published in *Environmental Research* at about the same time CDC was arguing its case that an epidemiological study was not possible.

VA sidestepped the Columbia University-American Legion study much the same as it did a number of research reports released by

CDC and the Air Force. A 1987 CDC report noted that five years after the end of the war, veterans who served in Vietnam were dying at a rate 45 percent higher than those who did not serve in-country. VA even downplayed a revelation it made on its own, that Marine ground troops fighting in Vietnam died of lung cancer and cancers of the lymph system at higher rates than Marines who did not serve in Vietnam. The government preferred to label the reports "statistical flukes."

By the end of 1989:

■ Veterans knew little more about their unexplained illnesses than they did when they came home, and had faint hope for compensation.

■ A group of veterans settled a \$197 million class-action lawsuit against a number of chemical companies that manufactured Agent Orange. Of the 105,000 claims received after the suit, approximately 52,000 Vietnam veterans or their survivors received payments that averaged \$3,800 each.

■ The Veterans Administration was elevated to cabinet-level status, and top-level administrators of the new Department of Veterans Affairs wanted to bury the Agent Orange controversy, according to Severo and Milford.

As 1990 neared, thousands of Vietnam War veterans continued to suspect they were ill, diseased or crippled by chemicals sprayed from U.S. Air Force planes.

VA's Commitment on Agent Orange

see Page 52

Veterans Fight Back. In 1990, The American Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America – angered by years of delay and a growing suspicion that the White House was behind the foot-dragging – sued to force the government to comply with the 1979 law mandating a major epidemiological study of Vietnam War ground troops. The Legion and VVA had learned, among other things, that the White House had set the wheels in motion as early as 1986 to cancel the mandated CDC study. The White House's Agent

Orange Working Group was at the center of a massive campaign to manipulate research conclusions or alter unfavorable findings regarding Agent Orange, according to a report released in 1990 by a subcommittee of the House Government Operations Committee. The report charged that officials in the Reagan administration purposely "controlled and obstructed" a federal Agent Orange study in 1987 because it did not want to admit government liability in cases involving the toxic herbicides.

The veterans organizations lost their legal battle to force VA to undertake the mandated study, but not before the case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Although the case did not achieve a concrete victory for veterans, Ron Simon, a Washington attorney representing the Legion, recalled recently, "Sometimes a loss is as good as a win. The suit was a strategic move intended to keep the Agent Orange issue alive. We wanted to keep the pressure on the government to produce its epidemiological study. We lost the battle but won the war."

Vietnam War veterans may not have gotten the study they wanted, Simon says, but they did get affirmation and a process that permitted them access to VA health care and compensation for illnesses and diseases presumed to be a result of their service in Vietnam and exposure to Agent Orange.

In 1991, Congress enacted Public Law 102-4. The measure transferred review of scientific literature on Agent Orange from VA to the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine. The law established a mechanism for VA to recognize service connection on certain illnesses among Vietnam War veterans exposed to the defoliant, based on IOM recommendations. Under the measure, the VA Secretary must take into account the IOM reports and all other sound medical and scientific information to determine "positive association."

Advertisement



Andrew Easton is a noted sportsman and hunting authority. He writes on subjects relevant to hunting and shooting.

SHARP SHOOTER | by Andrew Easton

The Ins & Outs of Better Shooting

English supplement improves vision and allows you to pick up, focus, and lock in on moving objects faster than you ever thought possible.

Recently, I received this letter from Brian Howe of Richmond, VA.

Sharpshooter:

A couple of weeks ago, my friend Dave and I were sitting in a duck blind. Now, this is a guy I've known practically my whole life. We've hunted duck, whitetail, elk, turkey and just about everything else in season for the last 20 years.

We're both pretty good marksmen and we love to compete with each other! We've always been even skill wise. But, this last time we went out, I noticed Dave was picking up objects a lot faster than I was. He was focusing on incoming targets and squeezing off shots faster and more precisely than ever. By the end of the day, Dave was cleaning several more birds than I was. This went on the entire weekend.

So, I finally asked him if he'd gotten laser surgery or contact lenses. I mean, his shooting accuracy had improved so much. It was incredible. He just laughed and said no. But, last November he had been on a fox hunting trip in the Cheviot Hills of Northumberland, England, and one of the guides gave him a bottle of an English supplement called Claroxan™. He told Dave that it would greatly improve his vision. In a few weeks, the guide explained, he would be able to pick up, focus, and lock in on moving objects faster than he ever dreamed of.

Anyway, now Dave boasts about having the secret edge, and I don't like it one bit! Have you heard of this Claroxan™ stuff? Can I get any in the states?



Brian,
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Hope this helps!

—Andrew Easton

Three years later, IOM established four categories of findings to determine the amount and quality of scientific evidence linking Agent Orange to specific diseases in exposed veterans:

- **Category 1:** Sufficient evidence of an association.
- **Category 2:** Limited/suggestive evidence of association.
- **Category 3:** Inadequate/insufficient evidence to determine if an association exists.
- **Category 4:** Limited/suggestive evidence of no association.

VA considers conditions listed in categories 1 and 2 as presumptively recognized service-connected illnesses. Veterans with one or more of these conditions need not show proof their illnesses are related to Vietnam War military service to receive disability compensation. NAS made its first recommendation in 1993.

The IOM reviewed the availability of military records to conduct a major epidemiological study of Vietnam War veterans and concluded that CDC was probably wrong when it said military records couldn't be used to assess exposure, says Richard Christian Jr., former deputy director of the Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division, a retired Army lieutenant colonel who directed the DoD Environmental Support Group that was charged with gathering data on troop movements and defoliation areas for scientific studies.

Congress ordered VA to contract with NAS for a study to test the feasibility of developing "exposure characterization methods." The Stellman team successfully bid on the contract and carried out the job to the full satisfaction of IOM.

Congress also passed Public Law 97-72, "authorizing priority health-care services in all VA medical centers for the treatment of health conditions in Vietnam veterans that may be related to Agent Orange exposure." Hundreds of thousands of Vietnam War veterans received care under those provisions.

The Aftermath. Thirty-seven years ago, with its scant 37-word statement, the U.S. government discounted warnings and complaints that Agent Orange might be harmful, even deadly. For nearly a quarter century, VA ignored scientists inside and outside its own ranks. At times, it even seemed VA was attempting to pollute the debate with inaccurate science.

"For the Agent Orange studies, VA found scientists who could be expected by their prior work to conclude that veterans had not been harmed by Agent Orange," Simon says. "The first one they hired – a professor from UCLA, who was supposed to plan the first study – was quoted in *The New York Times* that Agent Orange never hurt anybody, before he even did the study."

Today, VA treats Vietnam War veterans for nearly a dozen illnesses linked to Agent Orange exposure, but that development, long in coming, occurred too late for many veterans. The lesson shouldn't be forgotten, Simon says.

Not wanting a repeat of the Agent Orange fiasco, The American Legion immediately hired a physician to study the health concerns of returning Gulf War veterans. And when VA started putting together a study, it hired doctors who were more objective. While many Gulf War veterans dispute government conclusions, the government has tried to find answers by funding research by non-government scientists. That didn't happen after Vietnam. "With Agent Orange, the government selected scientists and others who had been doing work for the chemical industry for decades and were not likely to find any harm to

veterans," Simon explains. "For the Persian Gulf, VA got doctors who really cared."

If the Agent Orange mystery is ever to be solved, it will be because of the 1988 and 2003 Stellman studies, as well as The American Legion's unrelenting pressure on VA to fulfill its statutory and moral responsibilities to veterans, Simon says. "The American Legion has kept the issue alive for decades. Every time the government thought it had buried the Agent Orange issue, the Legion resurrected it."

When VA said a study could not be done, The American Legion teamed with Columbia University researchers in 1983 to begin a study. In 1991, The American Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America resuscitated the Agent Orange controversy by suing to force the government to abide by the 1979 law and conduct a major epidemiological study of Vietnam ground troops. If it were not for unbending pressure by the

Legion, Agent Orange would long ago have been relegated to the history books."

If an object lesson is to be learned from the decades-long Agent Orange experience, maybe it's that VA should listen to veterans, the Legion's Sommer says. "Ill veterans streamed into VA hospitals and clinics, and VA looked right past them as if they did not exist. Well, they did exist, they do exist, and they will always exist as long as there are wars." 🇺🇸

James V. Carroll is an assistant editor at The American Legion Magazine.

Illustration: Steve Stone

Article design: King Doxsee

Call to action

Recent scientific findings show that more of Vietnam was sprayed with Agent Orange, and more people were exposed to it, than previously suspected. That research amplifies the need for all veterans to call upon their elected officials and VA leadership to produce a definitive government-funded epidemiological study to resolve the mystery once and for all. Legionnaires are urged to lead the veterans in their communities to demand follow-through on a congressional mandate made more than 20 years ago to determine the extent to which their illnesses can be positively linked to Agent Orange exposure.



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Columbia University couple keeps Agent Orange war alive.



Haze of Deception



For more than two decades, Jeanne Mager Stellman and Steven D. Stellman have been unraveling the mysteries of Agent Orange and pushing the government to determine responsibility for adverse health conditions of veterans exposed to it during the Vietnam War.

The Stellmans are widely acknowledged as leading national experts on Agent Orange and have written numerous peer-reviewed reports about it. She is a professor of clinical health policy and management, while he is a professor of epidemiology, both at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

In the 1980s, The American Legion and a Columbia University research team led by the Stellmans collaborated on a study to determine the health effects to veterans who had been exposed to Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam and who also showed the long-term effects of the Vietnam combat experience.

The research team discovered a number of conditions that appeared to be linked to exposure.

In 2003, another Columbia University team led by the Stellmans developed a computerized method for evaluating exposure to herbicides that provides scientists with the means for conducting a long-awaited large-scale epidemiological study on Vietnam War veterans.

The methods correlate all available information, matching spray missions, troop locations and other data. The research team also cleared up many of the old records and found new ones showing far more deadly dioxin had been sprayed than had been previously known.

The Stellmans were awarded The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal at its 2003 National Convention in St. Louis. The award recognizes the couple's lifelong body of research that has helped expedite medical treatment and compensation to Vietnam War veterans suffering from exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides.

The American Legion Magazine: *How does your new research differ from earlier studies?*

Steven D. Stellman: Our new work has developed a rapid system that uses the HERBS file, an electronic record that contained data on nearly 10,000 missions, including flight paths, herbicide agents and volumes used to estimate exposure opportunities to the spray. Our work with military records also helps us fill in the missing data on the spraying and the locations of troops.

Jeanne Mager Stellman: Working with the daily logs filed by pilots after their missions, I noticed that some of the project numbers on the logs resembled numbers on a couple of columns in the HERBS data that we never really looked at before. It was sort of like, "Wow." With a lot of help from DoD's Center for Research on Unit Records and people at the National Archives, we were able to find new information to draw maps of spraying patterns, show target zones, and when, where and how much herbicide was sprayed.

TALM: *What is most significant in the new studies?*

JMS: It is now possible to analyze the relationships between herbicide spraying, geography, population and troop location. Up to now, the lack of such a measure was the reason given by the government for not being able to do a major epidemiological study. Now that our work is published in scientific journals and has met Institute-of-Medicine standards, some barriers to research have really been lowered.

SDS: Our research pinpoints areas likely to be hotspots, so that now, additional studies on the health effects of these exposures, which are very much needed, can be done.

Agent Orange on the Web

■ To read the new Stellman report, visit www.nature.com and search for "Agent Orange."

■ Monthly VA Agent Orange Reviews are available at www1.va.gov/agentorange.

■ The Institute of Medicine Veterans and Agent Orange Update series is at www.iom.edu.

■ Also, visit www.legion.org and click on "Veterans" and then "Vietnam Veterans Information" for Agent Orange updates.

TALM: How did you become involved in the Agent Orange issue?

JMS: In the early 1980s, we helped put together a questionnaire for a small activist veterans group that suspected Vietnam War veterans had been exposed to Agent Orange. At first we were skeptical. After all, we wouldn't expose our own guys, would we? As I started looking at the questionnaires, I started to see symptom patterns we didn't expect, and I said to Steve, "Maybe these guys were exposed." We also did a survey with the National Center for Veterans Law and became convinced that further research on Agent Orange was needed.

We later hooked up with The American Legion, by accident. I was riding in a cab one day and heard Legion National Adjutant Bob Spanogle talking about Agent Orange on the radio and thought to myself, "He's absolutely on target about everything he's saying." I wrote him a letter, and he told me to talk to John Sommer, who was director of the Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation division in Washington.

It was a real meeting of the minds, and clearly the Legion and we were on the same track. We decided to put together the first health study. At that time in 1983 the likelihood of finding relationships to diseases like cancer was pretty remote because the guys were just too young. We decided to set up a broad study, including looking at PTSD, so that we could get a fuller picture of what was going on.

TALM: What impact did your 1988 report have on the debate?

SDS: It was a pretty contentious time. Our report came out about the same time the Centers for Disease Control was telling Congress that an Agent Orange health study was impossible. The White House Agent Orange Working Group put an end to the big epidemiological study needed to answer questions, but our work helped to keep the debate alive.

JMS: Today, two decades later, there has still not been a large-

"We found that veterans exposed to Agent Orange exhibited higher rates of non-cancerous fatty tumors, skin rashes with blisters and adult acne. We discovered higher rates of fatigue, physical depression, and colds and body aches."

scale epidemiological study to get answers. Unfortunately, politics and money seem to be playing a bigger role than science.

TALM: What did you conclude from that first report?

JMS: We found that veterans exposed to Agent Orange exhibited higher rates of non-cancerous fatty tumors, skin rashes with blisters, and adult acne. We discovered higher rates of fatigue, physical depression and colds and body aches. We found that wives of Vietnam War veterans who had been exposed to Agent Orange suffered from abnormally high rates of miscarriages.

SDS: We also discovered that men engaged in high levels of combat during the Vietnam War appeared less happy and less satisfied with their lives. They were at a higher risk for bad marriages and showed higher levels of anxiety. Vietnam War veterans exposed to Agent Orange were prone to greater use of alcohol, cigarettes and prescription drugs, and earned less money than soldiers who did not fight in Southeast Asia.

TALM: What prompted the 2003 study?

SDS: In 1996, Congress told VA to contract with National Academy of Sciences to determine whether exposure models that could lead

to epidemiological studies of Vietnam War veterans were feasible. We got the NAS contract to develop the models.

JMS: But we didn't look at simple models. We felt strongly that any health study had to look at the whole picture – all the experiences of the Vietnam War veterans. Working with the Legion, we went back to the original study group and now we've shown that there are still a lot of veterans continuing to suffer long-term effects of their combat experiences. The Columbia University-American Legion study is now the largest long-term study of Vietnam veterans. It's just too bad it isn't big enough to answer more of the Agent Orange questions. That's only possible with major government support and cooperation.

TALM: What are some of the lessons you've learned from your Agent Orange studies?

SDS: First, persistence pays. Second, the only way to do a successful health study on people is to work hand in hand with those most affected – not to manipulate findings, but to figure out the right questions to ask and to get the cooperation you need to make a study successful.

JMS: Finding the truth can be frustrating. It took a lawsuit by The American Legion to try to get a study mandated by law under way, but even with that action, here we are, right back where we were in 1988 when we published the first Legion study. It took Vietnam War veterans more than 20 years to get the first accepted exposure measure, which today, quite frankly, is not far different from the one we proposed in 1986 and from the one that the National Academy of Sciences had developed in 1974. It's like back to the future, but I'm pretty hopeful that at last truth and simple justice will prevail. All the vets are asking for is an honest commitment to look at the facts – I don't think that's too much to ask. 🍀

Article design: King Doozee

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NOT Child's Play

Today's youth are in the crosshairs of a violent film and video-game marketing war.

BY JAY STULLER

In the beginning, there was Pong. Its little ball of light bounced back and forth across a dark screen. No more than a stone tool in the evolution of computer technology, Pong helped give birth to the modern video game. Novel back in the early 1970s, the game was bland as cottage cheese and less challenging than checkers.

Today, video games are a \$12-billion-a-year industry, offering titles that pose strategic, ever-changing and intellectually stimulating challenges for players. The graphics in some are amazingly realistic. However, like too many popular movies and television programs, a striking number of video games – including the ones most played by teen-agers and kids even younger – include horrific images of brutality, destruction and death.

Consider film director Quentin Tarantino's latest movie, "Kill Bill," which hit theaters last October. Featuring 90 minutes of rapes, beatings, a scalping, stabbings and wild swordfights, its signature image is of severed arms and legs, with the camera lingering on stumps gushing fountains of blood. Rated R instead of the more stringent NC-17, "Kill Bill" drew enough teen-age ticket buyers to earn more than \$43 million in just two weeks of screening.

One of the best-selling video games on the market is "Grand Theft Auto: Vice City." An interactive marvel that's wildly popular with teens, "Vice City" brings players into "a town brimming with delights and degradation." It also enables them to randomly run over pedestrians, make drug deals and patronize a prostitute to earn "health points," with the option to then kill the hooker to get the money back.

There's no delicate way to describe this disturbing turn of morality, technology and culture.

Moreover, in a society for which soldiers fought, died and silently endured terrible memo-

ries of real conflict – to protect their children and grandchildren from such things – it is bitterly ironic that American media today are so awash in blood.

A Public-Health Issue. To Daphne White – founder and executive director of the Lion and Lamb Project, a national parents' organization based in Maryland – the epidemic of media violence is nothing less than "a public-health issue." Once an education journalist, White points out that the United States has the industrial world's highest rate of violence. "The effects show up in road rage," she explains. "Now we're hearing reports of children in day-care centers and grade schools imitating the violent acts they see in video games and movies."

What children see are heroic figures who act outside the law, assaulting and killing people without consequences. "I'm not suggesting that all kids who play video games will end up abusing pets or re-creating Columbine," White says. "But kids are being desensitized to violence, and their behavior is changing."

New research confirms that media violence has a physiological impact on child development. A recent study at the Indiana University School of Medicine, sponsored in part by the Indiana-based Center for Successful Parenting, used functional magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to measure brain function. The device revealed distinct differences in the brain patterns of adolescents while they played violent video games.

In a study of 38 teen-agers, half with no history of problems and half with records of disruptive behavior disorder, the latter showed less activity in their frontal lobe areas while watching violent films. That area of the brain is largely responsible for impulse control and decision-making, the stuff of good behavior in a civilized society.

"This is the first evidence that adolescents with aggressive, disruptive behavior disorders have brain-activation patterns

that are different from non-aggressive adolescents," said Dr. William Kronenberger, an Indiana University associate professor of psychiatry. "There appears to be a relationship between the way the brain responds to experiencing video violence and the amount of past exposure to violent games, movies and television."

While Kronenberger says the findings deserve much more study, his supporters at the Center for Successful Parenting are not surprised. Center President Steve Stoughton says, "We've long asked ourselves if something could be done to get physical evidence of the impact of media violence. This study starts to confirm what we've suspected."

Acting Out. The violent media verdict has been in for decades. More than 1,000 studies have overwhelmingly demonstrated a connection between media violence and aggressive behavior in some children. The American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, the National Institute of Mental Health, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the U.S. Surgeon General have all made statements linking media violence to real violence in society. "It's as clear as the warning on a pack of cigarettes," White says. "So what's not to believe?"

Certainly not the research. In last April's *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, two studies showed that violent video games increase a viewer's aggressive thoughts, feelings and behavior in lab settings and real life alike. A study of 227 college students found that those who played more violent video games in junior high and high school not only engaged in more aggressive behavior, they also had worse grades than others in college. In another study of 210 university students, half played a violent game and the other half a game that was simply an intellectual challenge. Shortly thereafter, students were asked to "punish" an opponent with noise blasts of varying intensities. The violent

viewers laid on distinctly more painful applications.

A study of 219 children in a Minnesota junior high found a similar correlation between video-game violence and what researchers call “relational aggression,” or threats and name-calling. Sponsored in part by the nonprofit National Institute on Media and the Family, the study showed that even mild aggression can be a precursor to worse.

“Long before kids throw a punch or pick up a weapon, they are probably treating others in a relationally aggressive way,” says David Walsh, who co-authored the study and heads the institute. “This is the kind of thing that becomes the breeding ground for more overtly violent behavior as kids get older,” he told Reuters.

Hundreds of video games are nonviolent. Some even encourage strategic thinking, which offers tremendous educational potential. For example, “Zoo Tycoon” gives children a budget and all the makings of a zoo from which to choose, including animals, fences, food, snack shops, advertising and caretakers.

“There are a lot of really good video games for kids,” White says. “Later this year, we’ll be listing our top 20 on our Web site, www.lionlamb.org.”

The Center for Successful Parenting also has a Web site that reviews the content in games and movies: www.sosparents.org. “What’s always of concern to us is that many parents don’t know what is in some of the more popular films and games,” Stoughton says. “It’s a lot worse than most realize.”

Marketing for Kids. David Grossman is well aware of the gruesome content. A retired lieutenant colonel and former professor of psychology at West Point, Grossman travels the country speaking to media, law-enforcement officials and school districts. He’s likened some video games to “military-quality murder simulators.” In a recent “ABC News” interview, Grossman described children’s maga-

zines with ads for games that claim to be “more fun than shooting the neighbor’s cat,” and that will allow you to “kill your friends guilt-free.”

Until about age 6, children have difficulty distinguishing fantasy from reality. Learning about the endless lives of Santa and the Roadrunner is part of growing up, Grossman says. “And now all of a sudden children are supposed to keep a grip on reality?”

With titles such as “Doom” and “Mortal Kombat,” video games are not subtle about the bloody altercations found within. In some games, one can even sever an opponent’s head and use it to bludgeon yet another victim. Given that kind of “fun,” teen-age boys are the obvious target market.

While First Amendment rights clearly protect film and game makers – and plenty of adults watch and play violent media – what troubles activists is how adult-level violence is so brazenly marketed directly at children. “If you are a 12-year-old girl or boy, you must go see ‘Kill Bill,’ and you will have a damn good time,” said director Quentin Tarantino, in a widely publicized statement made at the movie’s London premiere. “If you are a cool parent out there, go take your kids to the movie.”

If conscience and morality don’t restrain such comment, the ratings system hasn’t been much help either. The “independent” ratings boards for films and video games alike are largely sponsored by the media industry. And the industry, Grossman says, is concerned with one thing: profit.

“I don’t think the makers deliberately desensitize kids to violence any more than the tobacco industry intentionally gives people cancer, or the alcohol industry intentionally gives people traffic accidents,” he says. “Like alcohol and tobacco, they have found an addictive substance that sells well, and all they want to do is make money.”

Americans long ago decided that it wasn’t right to allow the marketing of cigarettes, alcohol and pornography to minors.

Perhaps the time has come to place media violence in the same category. Few laws have real teeth, and clear labels that warn parents of the decapitations, eviscerations and shootings in games aren’t that apparent.

While tougher restrictions are one thing, so is more vigilant parental control. In early 2003, a Stanford University study of third- and fourth-graders in nearby San Jose showed that when parents sharply reduced their children’s exposure to violent television and video games for just five months, it produced a 50-percent decrease in verbal aggression and a 40-percent drop in physical aggression.

Few societies in this world could not be improved with an increase in civility and restraint. Best learned at a young age, that kind of grace is seriously compromised when artificial violence becomes so common that the distinction between it and real suffering and death grow blurred. Consequently, media violence is anything but child’s play, and the blood flowing across their video screens isn’t remotely similar to reality.

In a nation that prizes, protects and then grumbles mightily about the consequences of free speech, government actions to completely prohibit media violence probably are not in the best interests of protecting rights. Package warnings and age limits for purchases are fine. But far more important are the daily decisions and behaviors of parental groups, parents and individuals. The choice not to purchase or watch a violent product – or not to allow a minor child to buy and watch it – is the most powerful measure of protection. It is the marketplace, above all, that will most effectively choke off the flow of media violence by making it unprofitable. Such good choices are the mark of a civil society. 🌿

Jay Stuller is a freelance writer living in the San Francisco Bay area.

Article design: Doug Rollison

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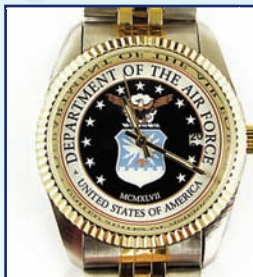
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Toward purposeful dissent

Liberal professor believes flag amendment hurts no one.

BY STEVEN LUBET

This is a story about one liberal's newly discovered appreciation for the proposed flag-protection amendment. But first, a little history:

During the 1984 Republican National Convention in Dallas, a protester named Gregory Lee Johnson doused an American flag with kerosene and set it on fire, while a surrounding crowd chanted "America the red, white and blue, we spit on you." He was arrested and charged under a Texas statute prohibiting "desecration of a venerated object." Convicted at trial and sentenced to a year in prison, Johnson appealed, setting into motion a rather surprising series of events. First, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals – not exactly a haven of bleeding hearts, even in the pre-Bush era – reversed the conviction, noting that "the right to differ is the centerpiece of our First Amendment freedoms." But then Texas' petition for certiorari was granted, leading to speculation that the U.S. Supreme Court would reinstate the guilty verdict and uphold the flag-desecration law.

In surprise No. 2, however, the Supreme Court ruled in *Texas v. Johnson* that flag burning is indeed expressive conduct protected by the First Amendment. The greatest surprise of all, of course, was that Justices Antonin Scalia and Anthony Kennedy joined in Justice William Brennan's majority opinion (though Kennedy also wrote a separate concurrence, expressing his unhappiness at having to reach that result, compelled as it was by the "fundamental meaning" of the U.S. Constitution). Chief Justice William Rehnquist dissented, joined by Justices

Byron White, Sandra Day O'Connor and John Paul Stevens (yet another small surprise).

Congress reacted swiftly, overwhelmingly passing the Flag Protection Act of 1989 (a pre-existing federal flag-burning statute had been uncomfortably similar to the unconstitutional Texas law), which made it a crime to deface, physically defile, burn or trample the American flag, other than for the purpose of disposal. By making it flatly illegal to burn a flag, regardless of expressive intent, it was thought that the Flag Protection Act could survive a constitutional challenge. It did not. By the same 5-to-4 margin, and in the same alignment, the Supreme Court in *United States v. Eichman* ruled that the statute was invalid under the First Amendment because it "suppresses expression out of concern for its likely communicative impact."

Recognizing that no flag-burning statute could ever meet the constitutional test articulated in *Johnson* and *Eichman*, various groups began promoting a flag-protection amendment to the Constitution, providing that, "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States." The amendment has passed the House of Representatives five times, most recently by a lopsided vote of 300 to 125, but it has never quite managed to obtain the two-thirds vote in the Senate necessary to send the amendment to the states for ratification. It will likely come to the Senate floor again some time this year.

Conservatives are almost uniformly in favor of the flag-protection amendment, arguing that it is necessary to preserve a great symbol of national unity. Liberals tend to be opposed,

fearing that no good can come of any effort to limit freedom of expression. As a lifelong liberal, my initial view was that it was a big mistake to modify the First Amendment, which has served us so well for more than 200 years. But now, surprising even myself, I have come around to the position that the proposed flag-protection amendment might not be quite so bad after all.

First, national opinion polls consistently show that nearly 80 percent of Americans would vote in favor of such an amendment. Of course, widespread public support does not justify the elimination of essential personal freedoms. Protest, especially by minority groups, is often unpopular. That's why we have the Bill of Rights. On the other hand, public sentiment is an important value that liberals all too often seem to overlook. At the very least, the overwhelming approval of the flag amendment should cause us to ask just how much damage it would really do to civil liberties.

It turns out that the flag amendment would not limit freedom of speech very much at all. No words or beliefs would be prohibited; no opinions would be suppressed. A single manner of protest would be enjoined, but the ideas behind the protest could still be expressed in a multitude of ways. As a liberal, I am in favor of broad forums for free speech, but I can still recognize a fairly negligible restriction when I see one. Had the original First Amendment included a flag exception – "Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech, except for flag burning" – there is little doubt that the subsequent history of popular democracy would have been entirely unaffected. A few more protesters

might have gone to jail by choice, a few more flags probably would have been burned out of frustration, and the tradition of dissent would have been otherwise unchanged.

The classic “slippery-slope” argument, a staple of liberal analysis, posits that small restrictions may lead to bigger ones. But in this case, that is not true. It is tremendously difficult to amend the Constitution, requiring a two-thirds vote in each house of Congress and ratification by three-quarters of the states. So it is extremely unlikely that the flag amendment will be quickly followed by others. About 11,000 amendments have been proposed since the adoption of the Bill of Rights, yet only 17 have been adopted. Constitutional amendments are not dominoes. The flag-protection amendment is not the first step on a long march toward thought control.

Finally, consider a concept that we might call the “integrity of protest.” The Supreme Court’s legalization of flag burning may have legitimated flag abuse as a First Amendment right, but it also deprived the gesture of much of its expressive punch, making it now more of a tantrum than a demonstration of deep conviction. It means very little to say, “I can burn a flag and you can’t stop me, nyah, nyah, nyah,” as compared with “I am so committed to the righteousness of my cause that I am willing to risk the penalties for flag burning.”

When thousands of antiwar protesters burned their draft cards in the 1960s, they faced the very real threat of prosecution and imprisonment for as long as five years. It was that fact, not merely



Comstock

*“It turns out that the flag amendment
would not limit freedom of speech
very much at all.”*

the ignition of a small piece of paper, that helped convince the nation of the seriousness of the movement. The draft-card burnings added fuel to the antiwar campaign precisely because they were illegal. Actions can be more persuasive when they are taken at personal cost. That is the power of true civil disobedience. At some point, we liberals might want to worry less about enabling every single expressive outburst and more about the vitality and content of purposeful dissent.

I haven’t completely lost my liberal bearings. No matter how much conservative activists fulminate, I remain quite aware that the republic is hardly

endangered by flag burning, legal or otherwise. The ideals that make up America can easily survive the most vitriolic forms of protest. Therefore, I am not enthusiastic about the flag amendment and, all things considered, I think the nation would probably be just as well off without it.

But a powerful argument exists for the importance of a unifying national symbol. Just recall the spontaneous flag displays around the country in the wake of the Sept. 11 terror attacks. People take great comfort in our flag, and that devotion ought to be respected – especially by liberals, who are often unfairly accused of disrespect, and worse. So, in a time of increasing challenges to real civil liberties, this is one battle that needs not be engaged. It would make far more sense to spend our limited political capital on amending the Patriot Act or filibustering right-wing judges, rather than on facilitating flag burning.

Liberals could show great good faith, while dispelling some shabby right-wing myths, by acknowledging that the flag-protection amendment will do no harm. 🌿

Steven Lubet is a professor of law at Northwestern University. His most recent book is “Nothing but the Truth: Why Trial Lawyers Don’t, Can’t and Shouldn’t Have to Tell the Whole Truth.” Contact Lubet at slubet@law.northwestern.edu.

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Article Design: Doug Rollison



National Commander John Brieden urges Legionnaires to make sure their elected officials and those seeking office in the fall know "why our legislative priorities are important." **James V. Carroll**

Commander to Washington Conference: 'Make a difference'

*Flag hearing,
Impact 2004
dominate gathering.*

National Commander John Brieden implored Legionnaires at the 44th annual Legislative Conference in Washington March 7 to 10 to "make a difference."

"Whether it's more money for VA, pay raises for the troops or supporting Old Glory, the voice of The American Legion is loud and clear. I challenge you to make a difference," Brieden told Legionnaires before encouraging them

to visit their senators and representatives on Capitol Hill. "Make sure Congress understands why our legislative priorities are important."

Brieden also launched the "Impact 2004: Military & Veterans Vote" campaign. The initiative is intended to educate voters and candidates about veterans issues and encourage turnout.

"It's called 'Impact 2004' because every vote counts," he said. "The American Legion doesn't endorse candidates. That's not the purpose. We endorse issues, and we believe voters should cast an educated vote."

"So often, it's hard to understand what is being said and

what stand is being taken. We are going to make a difference. We want to get out the vote and make sure that The American Legion is part of registering and encouraging people to vote. We want candidates to state specifically what their views are, so we all know where they stand," Brieden said. "We encourage posts to have town-hall meetings, meet-the-candidates nights and get candidates on the record so we can cast informed votes. You can make a difference."

The commander presented the 2004 American Legion Distinguished Public Service Award to the chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Rep.

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Chris Smith, R-N.J. "Throughout his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, this gentleman has repeatedly taken stands based on principle," Brieden said. "He's one of those fighters who takes his licks but never loses focus of what his objective is ... Mr. Chairman, you are truly a champion to The American Legion."

Smith used the opportunity to plead for some grassroots lobbying by Legionnaires. "The VA health-care system is an outstanding system that needs to be improved in terms of money," Smith said. "Remind my colleagues, as you lobby the Hill, of the complexity of care issues. As an aging veteran population utilizes VA health care, some of the end-of-life episodes or late episodes of health care are more expensive than when you are 30, 40 or 50." He also said medical inflation poses a serious problem to the VA budget.

Smith's call for increased VA funding echoed the sentiments of Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., one of 31 congressional members The American Legion named "Unsung Heroes" for their work on behalf of veterans.

"We often think of veterans as having served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, but we have to think about the Gulf War, Afghanistan and Iraq veterans," Clinton said. "These young people are serving in dangerous times. During the previous administration, I looked into complaints of ailments being suffered by the Gulf War veterans. There weren't any answers at that time. Young men in the prime of their life came home with breathing and respiratory problems and nervous disorders. The strongest ally I had after my husband asked

me to look into this was The American Legion ... We can't ever stop looking for answers. It was The American Legion that was the primary moving force behind making the Gulf War syndrome a national priority."

Clinton said Congress should make funding VA health care mandatory. "We were able to add nearly \$1.2 billion to last year's VA budget. We will have another battle this year, which is why I think we should have mandatory funding. We shouldn't have to fight these battles every year."

Although he did not join the call for mandatory funding, VA Secretary Anthony Principi confirmed that the system's patient load continues to grow. "Enrollment for VA health care has grown to almost 7.6 million veterans, up from 6 million veterans just four years ago," Principi said.

He called for greater cooperation between the Department of Defense and VA. "Our cause requires reinforcing our partnership with the Department of Defense. The wall separating VA and the Department of Defense must come down once and for all," he said.

The drive to constitutionally protect Old Glory gained momentum when members of The American Legion and Citizens Flag Alliance attended a packed Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the flag amendment March 10.

CFA Chairman and Medal of Honor recipient Patrick H. Brady (See "Precious Enough to Protect," Page 46), NASCAR driver John Andretti and Harvard Law Professor Richard D. Parker testified for the proposed constitutional amendment, which says, "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States."



Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., addresses Legionnaires before receiving the American Legion's Distinguished Public Service Award in Washington March 9.

James V. Carroll

Representing the Bush administration was Assistant Attorney General Daniel J. Bryant, who also testified in favor of the amendment. "The administration believes that this Congress should allow the ultimate decision of whether to amend the Constitution to lie with the individual states by passing this resolution and sending the amendment to them for ratification," Bryant said.

Chairman of the Judiciary Committee Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, stressed the importance of allowing states to decide the issue. "If the Senate passes the flag amendment this year, the nationwide debate over state ratification will be one of the greatest public discussions in American history," Hatch said. "It will encourage a deeper study of our nation's history and values. It will inspire our young people to understand and appreciate the heroic selflessness displayed during this and previous generations. And it will cause many Americans to renew their faith in – and commitment to – the ideals and values of America that are greater than anyone's personal self-interest."

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., a sponsor of the amendment, contradicted claims often made by fellow Democrats that the measure is a political diversion by Republicans. "I realize that by supporting a constitutional amendment to protect the flag, I am choosing a different course from many of my fellow Democrats in Congress, and quite frankly, from many of my close friends for whom I have the greatest respect," she said. "But my support for this amendment reflects my broader belief that the time has come for the nation to begin a major debate on its values. We need to ask ourselves what we hold dear. Is there anything upon which we will not cast our contempt?"

The Senate is expected to vote on the proposed amendment this summer. Legionnaires are encouraged to contact their senators and ask them to support S.J. Res. 4.

Article design: Doug Rollison

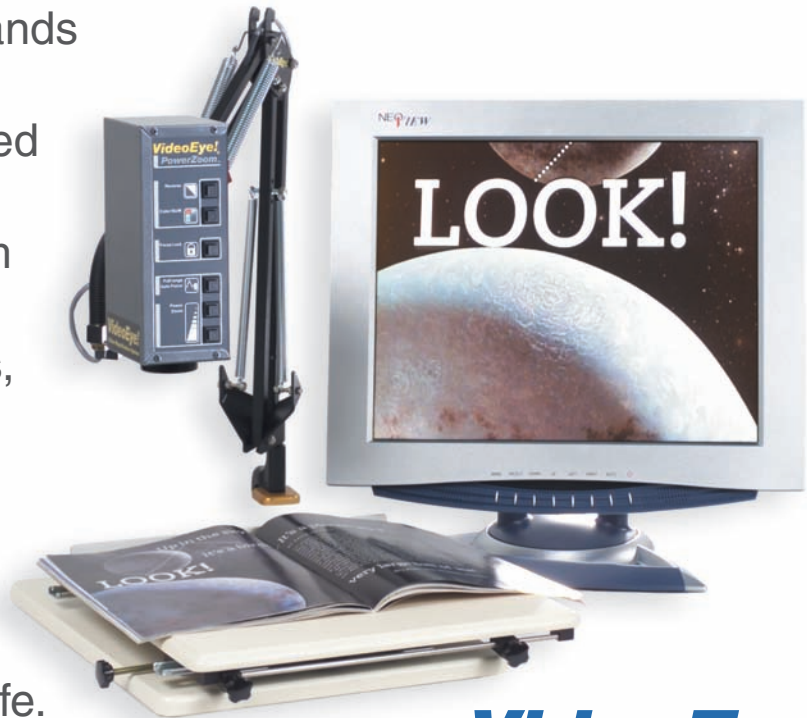
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James V. Carroll

'Any fifth-grader knows the difference between a flag and a bikini.'

**BY MAJ. GEN.
PATRICK H. BRADY**
U.S. Army (Ret.)

The following testimony was delivered before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary in Washington on March 10, by retired Army Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady, a recipient of the Medal of Honor and chairman of the Citizens Flag Alliance.

We realize that there are good and great Americans on both sides of this issue, and some who think it is hokey, a waste of time. It would be hokey if our fuss was about flag burners or flag burning itself. No matter how emotionally it affects most people, flag burning is a petty act, surely done to attract attention, to attack our country, our traditions and patriotism – but petty nonetheless. So I want to make it clear from the beginning that our primary concern is not flag-burners. They are with us always, along with others who hate America.

Our concern is the Constitution and those who have amended the Constitution – without the approval of the people, by inserting flag burning in the Bill of Rights – and others who would deny the people the right to decide this issue.

This struggle for our flag has been long and fatiguing, but we are energized in this effort by our contract with patriotism, the oath we took to protect and defend our Constitution, an oath that defines patriotism. All Americans take this same oath when they recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

And that is the bottom line: by defending the right of the people

to protect the flag, we are defending the Constitution. The Supreme Court made a mistake by calling flag burning “speech,” and it is the duty of every American to correct any error by our government. Flag desecration is not speech, and it desecrates our Constitution to say so. A review of the magnitude of great Americans who support this fact confirms it.

Baseball great Tommy Lasorda spoke to common sense, the dictionary and for three of four common Americans when he said, “Speech is when you talk.”

Justice Hugo Black spoke for every chief justice of the United States and justices on five Supreme Courts in the last century when he said, “It passes

“I believe in government of the people, by the people and for the people. Senate Joint Resolution 4 returns the business of government to the people, by restoring to the democratic process the power to protect the most powerful symbol of our democracy: the United States flag.”

— Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas

my belief that anything in the federal Constitution bars ... making the deliberate burning of the American flag an offense.”

U.S. Rep. John Murtha spoke for 70 percent of the Congress when he said, “Burning and destruction of the flag is not speech. It is an act, an act that inflicts insult – insult that strikes at the very core of who we are as Americans and why so many of



“The American flag serves as a symbol of our great nation. The flag represents, in a way that nothing else can, the common bond shared by an otherwise diverse people ... We need to pass the Flag Amendment because in 1989, the Supreme Court abandoned the history and intent of the First Amendment to embrace a philosophy that made no distinction between oral and written speech about the flag, and extremist, disrespectful destruction of the flag ...”

– Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah

us fought, and many died, for this country.”

Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf spoke for our warriors when he said, “I regard the legal protection of our flag as an absolute necessity and a matter of critical importance to our nation.”

We have heard from opponents of the flag amendment that our troops fight for the rights of flag burners. Who among them would stand before these men and women and tell them they are fighting and dying on the streets of Iraq so that their flag can be burned on the streets of America?

Add to this mighty armada the legislatures of all 50 states and our president, and no reasonable person could deny that the court made a mistake.

James Madison, the author of the First Amendment, also condemned flag burning, as did Thomas Jefferson. The framers intended to protect political speech – the persuading power that moves people to the ballot box and those elected to the will of the people. Flag burning is the persuading power of the mobs.

What the communist Gregory Johnson said when he burned the flag – “Red, white and blue, we spit on you” – may not add to the

political dialogue, but it is certainly protected by our Constitution. What he did – burning our flag – is not.

We could go on, but Walter Berns said it very well in “Making Patriots” when he wrote, “The First Amendment protects freedom of speech, not expression, and, whereas all speech may be expression of a sort, not all expression is speech, and there is good reason why the framers of the First Amendment protected the one and not the other.” The good reason is not difficult to see: the Constitution cannot pick and chose between actions that are speech and those that are not. Then, too, common sense tells us that if the framers meant expression, the protection of the press and assembly become redundant.

But legalized flag burning goes beyond desecration of our Constitution; it also desecrates our values as a nation. Burning the flag is wrong, but what it teaches is worse. It teaches that the outrageous conduct of a minority is more important than the will of the majority. It teaches that our laws need not reflect our values, and it teaches disrespect for the values embedded in our Constitu-

tion as embodied by our flag.

Yet, despite the enormity of evidence, we believe it is important to address the concerns of those who are confused or disagree on this issue, and we have done this in some detail.

First, there are those who have said flag burning is speech and should be protected by the Constitution but say they want a statute to protect the flag. The Supreme Court has made it clear that they will not allow a flag-protection statute. It has been tried.

It is important to know that the flag amendment does not protect the flag; it simply takes control of the flag away from the judges and returns it to the people, where they can protect it if they choose.

Those who want a flag-protection law can have it simply by voting for the flag amendment. But how can those who say flag desecration is speech support a law forbidding flag desecration?

(Secretary of State) Colin Powell is often quoted by those who support legalized flag burning when he said, “I would not amend that great shield of democracy to hammer a few miscreants.” Powell completely misses the point. Our goal is not to hammer miscreants who desecrate the

“Being the father of three, it is very important for me to teach my children respect and honor, not only for individuals, but also on a whole, and the flag is a means to that end. Our faith is our foundation, but there must be more, and it must be tangible, and it is found in the flag.”

– John Andretti, NASCAR Nextel Cup Series Driver





“I support this amendment because I believe flag burning is conduct, not speech, and can be regulated as such. But to my friends who would argue otherwise, I remind them that even the right to free speech is not unrestricted. For example, the government can prohibit someone from yelling ‘fire’ in a crowded theater.”

– Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.

flag; it is to hammer miscreants on the courts who desecrate the Constitution by calling flag-burning “speech.” If we do not do so, we violate our oath to protect the Constitution and will soon have no shield of democracy.

To those who say the flag amendment would amend the Bill of Rights, we ask if the Supreme Court in 1989 had voted to protect the flag, would they then have amended the Bill of Rights?

To those who have difficulty defining the American flag and express concern over prosecuting people who burn bikinis embroidered with the flag or toilet paper marked with the flag, we ask if they would put toilet paper or a bikini on the coffin of a veteran, or their own coffin. For over 200 years we had laws defining flag desecration, and our courts had no problem defining a flag. Any fifth-grader knows the difference between a flag and a bikini.

To those who say the flag is precious to them but oppose protection, we ask if they have anything that they love or that is precious to them which they would not protect. Is there any other precious symbol in America that is not protected? Pat Boone said that was like saying, “I love my mother, but it is OK to bat her around.”

Some distrust the will of the majority, even fear a tyranny of the majority. They worry that the majority may exercise its will on a more virtuous minority. To them, we ask if the minority on the court who voted to protect the flag was more virtuous than the majority who voted for flag burners, or if the minority that voted for their opponent was more virtuous than the majority that voted for them.

Some have actually said that since dictators protect their flag, protecting our flag aligns us with dictators.

We wonder how any American can compare Old Glory, designed by the father of our country and protected according to the will of a free people, to the hammer and sickle or swastika, protected according to the will of a dictator.

Jefferson and Madison believed our flag should be protected. Does that align them with Stalin or Hitler?

Some are concerned with the number of efforts to amend the Constitution. Why? Why is there no concern when the courts amend the Constitution? They do it frequently and illegally.

Why does the majority count only when it wears black robes and not when it wears working clothes? Look what the majority on courts has done with pornography,

with prayer, with the Ten Commandments, with the Pledge, with the Boy Scouts and with marriage.

There have been more than 11,000 attempts to amend the Constitution, and only 27 have succeeded. The people take this responsibility very seriously.

An amendment that addresses the Bill of Rights could start a great debate and awaken the people to what is being done to their Constitution. Once the people are aware, they will be outraged, and they will act. We have seen their outrage after the Super Bowl and their impact on the moral midgets in the media. And we saw the people’s outrage in California. They fired their governor, and that sent a message to all politicians. We need to send a message to the courts.

The flag amendment will energize the people and could help stop the slippery slope of constitutional desecrations.

The Constitution is too important to be left to the courts, and so is the flag. They both belong to the people, and it is time for this body to let the people decide.

If that flag is precious enough to cover the coffins of our dead warriors, it is precious enough to be protected. 🌿

Article design: Doug Rollison

“My own hero, Sen. Robert Kennedy, would never have doubted the value of public patriotism. He would never have dismissed it as trivial, dangerous or ‘right-wing.’ I believe that he would have voted – as his son did in 1995 and 1997 – to restore to the First Amendment the meaning it had, in effect, for two centuries of our history.”

– Richard D. Parker, Professor, Harvard Law School





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Perspective on Iraq

The good news:

- Saddam Hussein is in a prison cell. Some 25 million Iraqis are free.
- Iraq has already penned an interim constitution and will conduct elections in December.
- The Iraqi contribution to postwar security includes more than 200,000 men, nearly doubling the U.S. commitment.
- No refugee crisis has occurred. In fact, all of Iraq's 240 hospitals have reopened, and 90 percent of Iraqi children are now immunized.
- New water-pumping stations are up and running, and Iraq's oil pipelines are pumping 2.5 million barrels a day. Iraq's oil wealth has generated \$5 billion in the past year to support Iraqi reconstruction efforts.



Saddam spirited his chemicals and biotoxins off to Syria just before the war.

- Innocent Iraqis continue to be targeted and killed by foreign terrorists and regime leftovers.
- No unifying figure or group has emerged to lead Iraq's restive populace. In other words, Iraq has no Hamid Karzai, as Afghanistan does – another indication of how total Saddam's tyranny was.

– A.W.D.



U.S. Special Forces train Malian soldiers in Timbuktu on the fringe of the Sahara desert March 17. U.S. experts have already started training soldiers in Algeria and Mali, as well as helping Mauritania, Niger and Chad combat perceived security threats. **corbis**

To Timbuktu

When President Bush said America would track down the country's terrorist enemies, no matter where they try to hide, he meant it. U.S. Green Berets recently arrived in Timbuktu to train and equip the armed forces of Mali as they battle an obscure Islamic terrorist group known as the Salafists.

As part of a \$7 million program, the United States has sent trucks, communications and navigation equipment, uniforms, body armor and intelligence data to Mali. The Green Berets reportedly arrived in the uncharted deserts of northwest

Africa in late 2003. By deploying a small detachment of troops in Mali, the Pentagon hopes to prevent the region from becoming like prewar Afghanistan, which was a breeding ground for terror.

Pain at the pump

In response to reports that gas prices hit record highs this spring, Gregg Easterbrook of *The New Republic* conducted a comparative analysis of gas prices over several decades, factoring inflation and real-dollar valuation.

Easterbrook concedes that the national average of \$1.75 in March for unleaded gas was a record high,

And the bad news:

■ Far more U.S. troops have been killed since the fall of Baghdad than during the air-land-sea blitz that decapitated the regime in April 2003.

■ Although the coalition has found WMD programs, the weapons themselves have proven elusive. Some believe

Saddam spirited his chemicals and biotoxins off to Syria just before the war.

■ Innocent Iraqis continue to be targeted and killed by foreign terrorists and regime leftovers.

■ No unifying figure or group has emerged to lead Iraq's restive populace. In other words, Iraq has no Hamid Karzai, as Afghanistan does – another indication of how total Saddam's tyranny was.

– A.W.D.

“but all that matters to consumers is inflation-adjusted cost.” By that measure, the prices are the same as the normal postwar average. Easterbrook says, “The actual U.S. record price for gasoline occurred in 1981, when regular unleaded cost \$2.80 in today's money.”

In terms of the average American's buying power, gas is now half the cost it was in the 1950s.

The other memorial

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the organization charged with raising funds for a Pentagon memorial has only been able to collect \$1 million toward its \$20 million goal. As a consequence, the opening of the memorial project may be pushed back to 2006, even though the design has been chosen and the architects are ready.

Some survivors and relatives of victims wonder if the memorial could be delayed into obscurity. As Brian Donovan, who lost his brother in the Pentagon attack, told *The Washington Times*, “If we're talking five years after the fact, the memorial will lose its edge.”

As planned, the memorial will include 184 metal benches and pools of water to recall each victim of the Pentagon attack. For more information about the Pentagon Memorial Fund, visit **Memorial.pentagon.mil**.

– Alan W. Dowd

Choose Life Grow Young with HGH

From the landmark book *Grow Young with HGH* comes the most powerful, over-the-counter health supplement in the history of man. Human growth hormone was first discovered in 1920 and has long been thought by the medical community to be necessary only to stimulate the body to full adult size and therefore unnecessary past the age of 20. Recent studies, however, have overturned this notion completely, discovering instead that the natural decline of Human Growth Hormone (HGH), from ages 21 to 61 (the average age at which there is only a trace left in the body) and is the reason why the body ages and fails to regenerate itself to its 25 year-old biological age.

Like a picked flower cut from the source, we gradually wilt physically and mentally and become vulnerable to a host of degenerative diseases, that we simply weren't susceptible to in our early adult years.

Modern medical science now regards aging as a disease that is treatable and preventable and that "aging", the disease, is actually a compilation of various diseases and pathologies, from everything, like a rise in blood glucose and pressure to diabetes, skin wrinkling and so on. All of these aging symptoms can be stopped and rolled back by maintaining Growth Hormone levels in the blood at the same levels HGH existed in the blood when we were 25 years old. There is a receptorsite in almost every cell in the human

body for HGH, so its regenerative and healing effects are very comprehensive.

Growth Hormone first synthesized in 1985 under the Reagan Orphan drug act, to treat dwarfism, was quickly recognized to stop aging in its tracks and reverse it to a remarkable degree. Since then, only the lucky and the rich have had access to it at the cost of \$20,000 US per year.

Many in hollywood's glamour sets, who never seem to age like you or I, have a special secret to tell, and even space pioneer and US Senator John Glen stays vital with HGH.

The next big breakthrough was to come in 1997 when the American Anti-aging Society, a group of doctors and scientists, developed an all-natural source product which would cause your own natural HGH to be released again and do all the remarkable things it did for you in your 20's. Now available to every adult for the price of a coffee and donut a day.

GHR now available n America, just in time for the aging Baby Boomers and everyone else from age 30 to 90 who doesn't want to age but would rather stay young, beautiful and healthy all of the time.

The new HGH releasers are winning converts from the synthetic HGH users as well, since GHR is just as effective, is oral instead of

self-injectable and is very affordable.

GHR is a natural releaser, has no known side effects, unlike the synthetic version and has no known drug interactions. Progressive doctors admit that this is the direction medicine is seeking to go, to get the body to heal itself instead of employing drugs. GHR is truly a revolutionary paradigm shift in medicine and, like any modern leapfrog advance, many others will be left in the dust holding their limited, or useless drugs and remedies.

It is now thought that HGH is so comprehensive in its healing and regenerative powers that it is today, where the computer industry was twenty years ago, that it will displace so many prescription and non-prescription drugs and health remedies that it is staggering to think of.

The president of BIE Health Products, the American distributor, stated in a recent interview, "I've been waiting for these products since the 70's. We knew they would come, if only we could stay healthy and live long enough to see them! If you want to stay on top of your game, physically and mentally as you age, this product is a boon, especially for the highly skilled professionals who have made large investments in their education, and experience. Also with the failure of Congress to honor our seniors with pharmaceutical coverage policy, it's more important than ever to take pro-active steps to safeguard your health. Continued use of GHR will make a radical difference in your health, HGH is particularly helpful to the elderly who, given a choice, would rather stay independent in their own home, strong healthy and alert enough to manage their own affairs, exercise and stay involved in their communities. Frank, age 85 walks two miles a day, plays golf, belongs to a dance club for seniors, has a girl friend again and doesn't need Viagra, passed his drivers test and is hardly ever home when we call - GHR delivers.

HGH is known to reverse Hemorrhoids, Multiple Sclerosis, Ankylosing Spondylitis, Macular Degeneration, Cataracts, Colitis, Fibromyalgia, Angina, Chronic Fatigue, Diabetes, Hepatitis C, Rheumatoid Arthritis, High Blood Pressure, Sciatica, helps Kidney Dialysis and heart and stroke recovery.

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VA commitment on Agent Orange evolves

DR. JONATHAN B. PERLIN

Agent Orange was one of several herbicides used in Vietnam to defoliate trees and remove plant life that provided cover and food for the enemy. Its name came from orange stripes on the 55-gallon drums in which the defoliant was stored.

The chemical blend contained traces of dioxin as a manufacturing byproduct. Dioxin has since been shown in laboratory studies to cause a number of illnesses, including various cancers.

Since 1978, the Department of Veterans Affairs has operated the Agent Orange Registry health-examination program. More than 320,000 Vietnam War veterans have participated in the program, and the number of applying veterans has increased substantially in recent years.

Through the program, Vietnam

War veterans concerned about the health effects of Agent Orange receive comprehensive medical examinations. Offered at every VA medical center, the exam includes a series of questions about a veteran's possible exposure to herbicides. Veterans provide medical histories and undergo physical exams and lab tests, such as a urinalysis and blood tests.

Results of the examinations are entered into a national computer database that helps researchers identify problems associated with herbicide exposure. Additionally, veterans who register receive periodic updates about Agent Orange and other Vietnam-related issues.

Info Online

Learn more about Agent Orange and VA policy at:

va.gov/agentorange

vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/herbicide

Agent Orange Links. Vietnam War veterans with medical conditions linked in studies to Agent Orange – or any herbicide – are entitled to medical treatment and hospital care from VA. They also may be eligible for disability benefits. It is important to note that under VA policy, every Vietnam War veteran is assumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange.

Decisions on which medical conditions may be the result of exposure to herbicides in Vietnam are based on extensive research by VA's Environmental Epidemiology Service and many other federal bodies: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Air Force, the National Cancer Institute, the Environmental Protection Agency and others.

Since the ➔ see **Agent Orange** next page

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Black Listed Cancer Treatment Could Save Your Life

Baltimore, MD—As unbelievable as it seems the key to stopping many cancers has been around for over 30 years. Yet it has been banned. Blocked. And kept out of your medicine cabinet by the very agency designed to protect your health—the FDA.

In 1966, the senior oncologist at a prominent New York hospital rocked the medical world when he developed a serum that **"shrank cancer tumors in 45 minutes!"** 90 minutes later they were gone... Headlines hit every major paper around the world. Scientists and researchers applauded. Time and again this life saving treatment worked miracles, but the FDA ignored the research and hope he brought and shut him down.

You read that right. He was not only shut down—but also forced out of the country where others benefited from his discovery. That was over 37 years ago. How many other treatments have they been allowed to hide? Just as in the case of Dr. Burton's miracle serum these too go unmentioned.

Two-Nutrient Cancer Breakthrough...

Decades ago, European research scientist Dr. Johanna Budwig, a six-time Nobel Award nominee, discovered a totally natural formula that not only protects against the development of cancer, but people all over the world who have been diagnosed with incurable cancer and sent home to die have actually benefited from her research—and now lead normal lives.

After 30 years of study, Dr. Budwig discovered that the blood of seriously ill cancer patients was deficient in certain substances and nutrients. Yet, healthy blood always contained these ingredients. It was the lack of these nutrients that allowed cancer cells to grow wild and out of control.

By simply eating a combination of two natural and delicious foods (found on page 134) not only can cancer be prevented—but in case after case it was actually healed! "Symptoms of cancer, liver dysfunction, and diabetes were completely alleviated." Remarkably, what Dr. Budwig discovered was a totally natural way for eradicating cancer.

However, when she went to publish these results so that everyone could benefit—**she was blocked by manufacturers with heavy financial stakes!** For over 10 years now her methods have proved effective—yet she is denied publication—blocked by the giants who don't want you to read her words.

What's more, the world is full of expert minds like Dr. Budwig who have pursued cancer remedies and come up with remarkable natural formulas and diets that work for hundreds and thousands of patients. *How to Fight Cancer & Win* author William Fischer has studied these methods and

revealed their secrets for you—so that you or someone you love may be spared the horrors of conventional cancer treatments.

As early as 1947, Virginia Livingston, M.D., isolated a cancer-causing microbe. She noted that every cancer sample analyzed (whether human or other animal) contained it.

This microbe—a bacteria that is actually in each of us from birth to death—multiplies and promotes cancer when the immune system is weakened by disease, stress, or poor nutrition. Worst of all, the microbes secrete a special hormone protector that short-circuits our body's immune system—allowing the microbes to grow undetected for years. No wonder so many patients are riddled with cancer by the time it is detected. But there is hope even for them...

Turn to page 82 of *How to Fight Cancer & Win* for the delicious diet that can help stop the formation of cancer cells and shrink tumors.

Six-time Nobel Nominee's Two-Nutrient Cancer Breakthrough Revealed

They walked away from traditional cancer treatments...and were healed! Throughout the pages of *How to Fight Cancer & Win* you'll meet real people who were diagnosed with cancer—suffered through harsh conventional treatments—turned their backs on so called modern medicine—only to be miraculously healed by natural means! Here is just a sampling of what others have to say about the book.

"We purchased *How to Fight Cancer & Win*, and immediately my husband started following the recommended diet for his just diagnosed colon cancer. He refused the surgery that our doctors advised. Since following the regime recommended in the book he has had no problems at all, cancer-wise. If not cured, we believe the cancer has to be in remission."

—Thelma B.

"I bought *How to Fight Cancer & Win* and this has to be the greatest book I've ever read. I have had astounding results from the easy to understand knowledge found in this book. My whole life has improved drastically and I have done so much for many others. The information goes far beyond the health thinking of today."

—Hugh M.

"I can't find adequate words to describe my appreciation of your work in providing *How to Fight Cancer & Win*. You had to do an enormous amount of research to bring this vast and most important knowledge to your readers.

My doctor found two tumors on my

prostate with a high P.S.A. He scheduled a time to surgically remove the prostate, but I canceled the appointment. Instead I went on the diet discussed in the book combined with another supplement. Over the months my P.S.A. has lowered until the last reading was one point two."

—Duncan M.

"In my 55 years as a Country Family Physician, I have never read a more 'down to earth,' practical resume of cancer prevention and treatments, than in this book. It needs to be studied worldwide for the prevention of cancer by all researchers who are looking for a cure."

—Edward S., M.D.

"As a cancer patient who has been battling lymphatic cancer on and off for almost three years now, I was very pleased to stumble across *How to Fight Cancer & Win*. The book was inspiring, well-written and packed with useful information for any cancer patient looking to maximize his or her chances for recovery."

—Romany S.

"I've been incorporating Dr. Budwig's natural remedy into my diet and have told others about it. Your book is very informative and has information I've never heard about before (and I've read many books on the cancer and nutrition link). Thanks for the wonderful information."

—Molly G.

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[Agent Orange] 1980s, investigators have received more than \$7.4 million in funding from VA and from a variety of other governmental and academic institutions to study questions concerning Agent Orange.

Relevant studies are reviewed by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, an independent body. This organization publishes a report every two years and advises the VA secretary. The IOM's most recent report, from last year, is available on the Internet at Nap.edu/books/0309086167/html. It also is available at the IOM's new Web site dedicated to the health of veterans and deployed forces at iom.edu. Click on the military link. The site contains a wealth of reports and other information for veterans of all major conflicts since World War II.

Eligible Conditions. Over the past decade, the number of diseases

VA has recognized as associated with, but not necessarily caused by, exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides has expanded considerably. The conditions now recognized as service-connected for war veterans with service in Vietnam Jan. 9, 1962, to May 7, 1975, include: chloracne, a skin condition that resembles acne; acute and subacute porphyria cutanea tarda, a disorder involving liver and skin problems; peripheral neuropathy, a nervous system condition that causes numbness and tingling; type II diabetes, added in 2001; and numerous cancers, including Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, certain soft-tissue sarcomas, multiple myeloma, prostate cancer, respiratory cancer (cancer of the lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea), and chronic lymphatic leukemia (the most recent addition, in 2003).

Furthermore, children of Vietnam War veterans with the birth defect spina bifida are

eligible for benefits, as are children with a wide range of other birth defects who were born to female Vietnam War veterans who served in Vietnam.

Keep in mind that each VA medical center has a physician responsible for conducting Agent Orange Registry examinations. In honor of the great sacrifices made by the men and women who served in Vietnam, VA is committed to continuing to pursue knowledge in this area and providing the best medical care possible.

Jonathan B. Perlin, M.D., Ph.D., is deputy undersecretary for health and acting chief research and development officer in the Veterans Health Administration.

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their personal physicians when they have health problems.

Advertisement

Doctor's Diabetes Breakthrough?

(SPECIAL) – Here's important news for anyone with diabetes. A remarkable book is now available that reveals medically tested principles that can help normalize blood sugar naturally...help reverse many symptoms of diabetes. People report **better vision, more energy, faster healing, regained feeling in their feet**, as well as a reduction of various risk factors associated with other diseases.

This diabetes program was researched, developed and written by a leading nutrition specialist. It shows you exactly how nature can activate your body's built-in healers once you start eating the right combination of foods. It can work for both Type I and Type II diabetes and people report it has helped reduce their insulin resistance. It can give diabetics control of their lives and a feeling of satisfaction that comes from having normal blood sugar profiles.

The results speak for themselves. The program is based on research that many doctors may not be aware of yet. It tells you which delicious foods to eat and which to avoid. It also warns you of the potential dan-

ger of certain so-called "diabetes" diets. Diabetics have written letters to the publisher calling this book "very outstanding"... "a tremendous help"... and saying it made "a difference in my life." This amazing program is based on documented scientific principles that can help:

- **Eliminate ketones and give you more abundant energy**
- **Make blood sugar levels go from High Risk to Normal**
- **Stimulate scratches and scrapes to heal faster**
- **Improve eyesight**
- **Improve your balance**
- **Help numb feet regain a level of feeling**
- **Reverse neuropathy and resultant heel ulcers**

Improvement may be seen in other areas as well, such as **lower blood pressure, lower cholesterol and reduced triglyceride levels**. There may also be a reduction of other risk factors associated with: **heart attacks, stroke, retinopathy, kidney damage**.

What's more, it may help improve **short term memory** and make you feel **more**

alert and no longer chronically tired. Improvements of **double vision** or *diplopia* may also be experienced.

If you or someone you know have diabetes, this could be the most important book you'll ever read. As part of a special introductory offer, right now you can order a special press run of this remarkable program for only \$12.95 plus \$2.00 shipping. It comes with a 90 day money back guarantee. If you are not 100% satisfied, simply return it for a full refund...no questions asked.

Order an extra copy for family or friend and SAVE. You can order 2 for only \$20 total.

HERE'S HOW TO ORDER:

Simply PRINT your name and address and the words "Diabetes Program" on a piece of paper and mail it along with a check or money order to: THE LEADER CO., INC., Publishing Division, Dept. DB844, P.O. Box 8347, Canton, OH 44711. VISA or MasterCard send card number and expiration date. Act now. Orders are fulfilled on a first come, first served basis.



Accidental Discovery of Mysterious "Gold Rush" Coin Stuns Experts

World's Rarest U.S. \$20 Gold Proof Found: The San Francisco Mint 1854 Double Eagle Proof!

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A one-of-a-kind U.S. Treasury gold proof coin has been accidentally discovered within the vaults of the Smithsonian Institution. This 1854-S gold Double Eagle \$20 coin was struck by the San Francisco Mint in its first year of operation. The San Francisco Mint was born out of the need for a Western Frontier Mint when, in January of 1848, gold flakes were discovered at Sutter's Mill triggering one of the most important chapters in U.S. History—The California Gold Rush! To the surprise of historians, this single "S" mint Proof coin was individually struck from specially polished minting dies. How this unique Proof Double Eagle made its way across the continent and then into the hands of the Smithsonian Institution is an unsolved mystery to this day.

Today the First Federal Mint announces the public release of the first ever gold Proof commemorative honoring this rarest U.S. Government \$20 gold piece. This 10mil gold Proof has a frosted image against a deep mirror field, creating a breathtaking work of art in gold. This 150th anniversary Mint release honors the legacy of a true historic masterpiece.

The magnificent 10mil gold proof measures a full 39mm diameter to truly showcase the beauty and intricacy of this legendary coin design. The 10mil gold proof is available only through this limited edition, private release from the First Federal Mint at the advance issue price of \$19.95 each.

Fabulous Rarity Valued at \$12 Million.

Only one original proof coin is known to have been struck. Even the foremost rare coin experts were unaware of its existence until it was accidentally found



deep in the vaults of the museum.

America's foremost authority on U.S. gold coins, David Akers, has written, "the 1854-S Double Eagle is easily the most significant and desirable branch mint proof coin in existence". With the recent auction sale of one of the three 1933 St. Gaudens Double Eagles for \$7.9 million, senior numismatist Nicholas Bruyer estimates the unique 1854-S Proof Double Eagle would bring at least \$12 million if it ever becomes available at auction.

The "Gold Rush" Coin.

2004 marks the 150th anniversary of this historic mint striking. The First Federal Mint is releasing this collectors quality 10mil gold Gem Proof to honor the legend, lore and legacy of the 1854-S Double Eagle!

Special Discount for Advance Orders.

The issue price for the special 150th anniversary 1854-S Gold Proof has been set at \$50.00. However during the advance release period only, you may reserve your own 10mil 24k gold Gem Proof for only \$19.95.

Your 1854-S Double Eagle 150th Anniversary Gold Proof will be protected in a clear acrylic holder and mounted in a deluxe presentation case. A signed and numbered Certificate of Authenticity will attest to the specifications and Limited Edition status of this exclusive private mintage.

Your order must be placed during this advance issue period

to qualify for the \$19.95 price. Multiple orders of five or more will be priced at \$17.95 per Gold Proof. You must be 100% satisfied with your order, or simply return it within 30 days by insured mail for a prompt refund of the purchase price.

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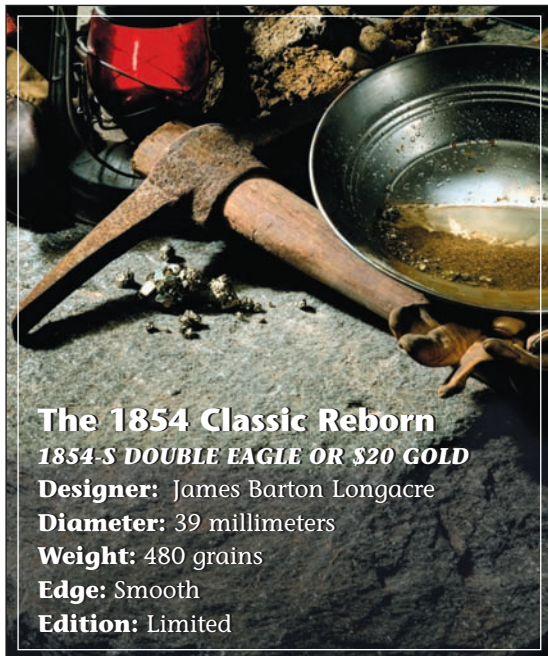
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Edition: Limited

How to Submit a Reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are published free of charge.

Due to the large number of reunions, *The American Legion Magazine* will publish a group's listing only once a year. Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other Notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim. Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, tele-

phone number and e-mail address. Send notices to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish the names of individuals, only the name of the unit from which you seek people. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership. Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

AIR FORCE/ARMY AIR FORCES

1st Air Commandos, Peoria, IL, 9/1-5, W.S. Mitsdarffer, (815) 223-7515; **1st, 7th Emerg Rescue Sqdns**, Peoria, IL, 9/9-11, Chuck Dill, (309) 263-8288, dill@dpc.net; **4th Air Depot Grp**, Fairfield, OH, 9/18, George Smith, (513) 856-8233, gsmith2162@aol.com; **6th Bomb Wing**, Roswell, NM, 9/24-25, Wanda Williams, (505) 623-4039; **7th AF 11th Bomb Grp (H) Assn**, New Orleans, 9/17-21, Gus Petros, (800) 255-4666; **8th Ftr Cont Sqdn (WWII)**, Alexandria, LA, 10/26-28, Louis Hamilton, (318) 346-6280; **9th AF 402nd Ftr Sqdn**, Las Vegas, 10/3-7, Paul Rosenquist, (541) 563-5307; **10th Tact Recon Wing (Spangdahlem, Germany, 1953-1959)**, Branson, MO, 10/14-17, Jerry Graham, (210) 658-5962, nodaktwoinx@att.net; **21st Ftr Bomb Wing (Chambley AB, France, 1954-1958)**, Washington, 6/18-21, Bob Sisk, (903) 473-2272, sisk@icli.net; **48th FS, FIS & FTS**, Hampton, VA, 10/20-24, Joe Onesty, (562) 431-2901, jonesty2@juno.com

52nd Ftr Grp 5th Ftr Sqdn "Spittin Kittens," Travers City, MI, 9/12-14, John Hughes, (989) 732-5641, hughes508@core.com; **63rd TCW**, Savannah, GA, 9/25-28, Keith Holmquist, (864) 226-6869, keshi@charter.net; **79th FBS (Woodbridge, UK, 1952-1955)**, Baton Rouge, LA, 9/16-18, Ray Gautreaux, (225) 357-8198; **86th Ftr/Bomb Grp (WWII)**, Branson, MO, 8/11-14, Sid Howard, (714) 992-2504, ww2gfu@juno.com; **87th Airdrome Sqdn 7th & 20th AAF**, Dearborn, MI, 10/2-5, Ray Rogers, (419) 734-4702, raydor@nwnonline.net; **90th SRW**, Savannah, GA, 10/27-30, Chuck Hale, (785) 865-5794, chuckhale@earthlink.net; **91st Strat Recon Wing - 91st, 322nd, 323rd, 324th SRS/91st ARS, FMS, AEMS, PMS, RTS, Supply Sqdn, HQSQ (McGuire, Barksdale, Lockbourne AFBs & Yokota AB)**, New London, CT, 9/16-20, Jim Bard, (410) 549-1094, jimbardjr@adelphia.net

98th Bomb Grp/Wing Vets Assn, Arlington, VA, 9/7-11, Dennis Posey, (770) 509-7734, dposey@comcast.net; **99th Bomb Grp (WWII)**, Baltimore, 9/8-12, Jim LaVey, (410) 252-5688; **100th SRW (SAC)**, Tucson, AZ, 6/5-6, John Loggins, (520) 498-9907, txag57@comcast.net; **301st Bomb Grp/Wings Assn**, Las Vegas, 10/28-30, Frank Riggsby, (702) 254-0203, doredson@webtv.net; **307th Bomb Wing/Grp (1946-1954)**, San Diego, 9/29-10/3, Cyrus Johnson, (805) 495-3518; **343rd SRS (1950s & 1960s)**, Topeka, KS, 9/9-10, Paul Dolby, (260) 356-1761, paul68n@netscape.net; **368th Ftr Grp 9th AF (WWII)**, Chicago, 9/30-10/3, Randolph Goulding, (678) 333-0241; **376th Bomb Grp**, Covington, KY, 9/9-12, Charlie Yates, (817) 292-5900; **388th Med Depot**, Hayes, KS, 9/16-19, O.M. Windholtz, (785) 625-9492, pat6363@yahoo.com; **416th & 531st Tact Ftr Sqdns 4th Tact Recon Sqdn "Polkadotters" 45th FIS (Misawa AB, 1959-1964)**, Austin, TX, 10/6, Les Frazier, les@lesfrazier.com; **416th Bomb Grp (L,**

Colorado Springs, CO, 8/18-22, Ralph Conte, (573) 817-9247, rconte@socket.net; **434th Trp Carrier Wing/Tact Ftr Wing/Air Refuel Wing**, Grissom ARB, IN, 7/31-8/1, Jeff Mercier, (765) 689-8865; **464th Bomb Grp (H) (Pantanello, Italy, WWII)**, Mobile, AL, 10/20-24, Tony Schneider, (717) 755-6729; **467th Bomb Grp**, Covington, KY, 10/6-11, Marvin Ralph Davis, (937) 426-2988; **501st Tact Cont Grp Assn**, Branson, MO, 10/17-20, Ron Anderson, (701) 293-5472, halron117@aol.com; **508th Air Refueling Sq KB-29s**, Boosier City, LA, 9/30-10/2, Dutch Ehrlenspiel, (318) 965-0420, r.j_ehrlenspiel@yahoo.com; **555th Civil Eng Sqdn Heavy Repair "Red Horse,"** Las Vegas, 10/28-30, Lynn Ferrone, (805) 524-9507, clyntrvl@aol.com; **610th, 618th, 850th ACW Sqdns & 527th ACW Grp (Japan)**, Branson, MO, 9/12-15, Marvin Jordahl, (904) 739-9337, jordahlmarvin@comcast.net

763rd AC&W Sqdn, Lockport, NY, 10/3, Vince Burolla, (315) 524-8286, vburoll1@rochesterr.com; **B-47 Stratojet Assn**, Dayton, OH, 9/23-25, Dick Purdum, (402) 291-5247, dickpurdum@cox.net; **Chanute AFB Mil & Civ Alumni 1917-1993**, Rantoul, IL, 7/3, Don Weckhorst, (217) 893-1613; **Graham AB**, Marianna, FL, 10/8-9, Chuck Guise, (814) 899-3552, gblackbird31@aol.com; **Gunners Assn (AFGA)**, Charleston, SC, 9/22-25, Dan Danish, (201) 520-1517; **HQ 48th Ftr Grp 492nd, 493rd & 494th Ftr Sqdns (WWII)**, Tucson, AZ, 10/14-16, Jake Cooper, (716) 633-6056, jco0128@aol.com; **Pilot Class 58-E**, Bainbridge, GA, 9/30-10/2, Dick Feaster, (209) 536-9106, richfeast@yahoo.com; **Pilot Tng Classes 52-G/H**, Covington, KY, 9/18-22, Patrick Hazel, (541) 673-3422; **Red Horse Roundup**, Harpers Ferry, WV, 6/25-27, Roger Miller, (814) 943-0141, rogerlee_820rh@yahoo.com

Sampson AFB Vets Assn, Waterloo, NY, 9/9-10, Chuck Giles, (716) 693-2080, chuckcmsretaf@aol.com; **Shepherd's Grove AFB**, Branson, MO, 11/7-12, Charles Lee, (540) 721-2747, cpllee@shepherdsgrove.com; **USAFSS Vietnamese Language Tng School Class 02VN47B2469 3345th Tech School Det 2 (Biggs Field, Fort Bliss, TX)**, El Paso, TX, 6/24-27, Lee Hawkins, (434) 237-2429, railhawk46@aol.com; **Westover AFSPFF/6594th, 8th RTG/Weisbaden-Shierstein 7499th/497th RTG**, Bay St. Louis, MI, 10/3-8, Jim Grimm, (352) 483-3772, patjimgr@aol.com

ARMY

1/77 Armor Bn/Rgt Assn "Steel Tigers," Louisville, KY, 7/15-18, Tom Miller, (703) 476-1798, tamillerjr@juno.com; **1st Eng Cbt Bn**, Springfield, MO, 9/12-15, Larry Blair, (505) 821-1386, blairlarry@hotmail.com; **2nd Chem Mortar Bn**, Norfolk, VA, 9/22-26, William Thomas, (972) 387-1247, jnickerson@capitalsouthwest.com; **2nd Eng Special Bde**, Anaheim, CA, 10/1-4, Paul Lieberman, (561) 482-9862; **2nd Chem Mortar Bn 461st Inf Bn,**

Norfolk, VA, 9/22-26, William R. Thomas, (972) 387-1247, jnickerson@capitalsouthwest.com; **3rd Bn 1st Inf 11th LIB Americal Div (Hawaii & Vietnam, 1967-1968)**, Orlando, FL, 12/3-5, Tim Cook, (701) 774-0598, thirdfirstreunion@yahoo.com; **3rd Inf Rgt "Old Guard,"** All Eras & Duty Stats, Arlington, VA, 9/8-12, Brett Reistad, (703) 963-8636, reistadb@comcast.net; **3rd Sqdn 17th Air Cav Rgt**, Atlanta, 9/3-6, Brian Piggot, (941) 474-4399, sirdruid@aol.com; **5th Armd Div Assn**, Covington, KY, 9/30-10/3, Joseph Abraham, (513) 791-1039; **5th Inf Div**, Indianapolis, 9/3-6, Jim Landry, (317) 834-6463, j16whiskey@aol.com; **6th Inf Div**, Branson, MO, 8/11-15, Russ McLogan, (517) 437-2768, terruspress@dmci.net; **10th Div Support Grps (Germany, 1955-1958)**, Branson, MO, 9/17-19, Ray Martineau, (603) 622-6243, xpunm@aol.com; **11th Spec Forces Grp Abn**, Fort Meade, MD, 8/7, Pete McDermott, (410) 544-3083, petermcd1@comcast.net

13th Inf Rgt, Fort Jackson, SC, 7/14-16, R.T. Sonneborn, (516) 805-2518, pathfinder8thid@cs.com; **13th Inf Rgt 8th Inf Div (WWII)**, Columbus, OH, 9/24-26, George Krist, (440) 235-9862; **19th Tank Bn 9th Armd Div**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 9/9-11, John Mogus, (724) 325-2770; **24th Inf Div Assn**, Albuquerque, NM, 9/22-26, Wes Morrison, (831) 883-2156, wesm8@aol.com; **25th MP Co (WWII, Japan, Korea, Vietnam & Hawaii)**, Asheville, NC, 9/23-26, Ken Mulkey, (276) 988-2137, krmulkey@mikrotec.com; **28th Div 12th Inf Rgt Assn**, Erie, PA, 9/16-18, Dick Brinker, (814) 825-3553, assoc112infreg@aol.com; **28th Gen Hosp Assn**, Hot Springs Nat'l Park, AR, 10/6-10, Joe Lott, (870) 836-3725, wayx@seark.net; **34th Div Sig Co (WWII)**, Watertown, SD, 8/27, Melvin Otto, (605) 886-3930; **34th Eng Bn Const (WWII-1986)**, Branson, MO, 7/29-31, Bryan Jackson, (423) 488-9223

36th Mech Cav, New Orleans, 9/15-18, John Brewer, (985) 641-7657; **46th Eng Bn Const (All Eras)**, Omaha, NE, 9/10-12, MerriAnn Anderson, (616) 361-5973; **47th Eng Camouflage Bn (Fort Riley, KS, Nov 1950-Nov 1952)**, Grand Island, NE, 9/21-23, Ted George, (308) 382-6278; **51st Ftr Interceptor Wing Assn**, Albany, NY, 9/9-11, Harold Bauser, (845) 246-5818, truhar@localnet.com; **51st Sig Bn**, Nashville, TN, 9/14-16, Tommy Thompson, (817) 326-4773, tom@itexas.net; **52nd Cbt Avn Bn & Camp Holloway Assn**, St. Louis, 10/7-10, Vern Gano, (636) 441-3590, ganoshome@earthlink.net; **59th Armd FA Bn**, Fort Chaffee, AR, 9/16-18, Robert Stella Sr., 314 Cool Springs Blvd. Suite 102, Franklin, TN 37067; **62nd Tank Bn (Kitzingen, Germany, 1955-1958)**, Branson, MO, 9/17-19, Sonny Vanderpool, (270) 725-4214, sonnyvdp@logantele.com

63rd Inf Div Assn, Falls Church, VA, 8/11-16, Catherine Forrest, (610) 489-9523; **65th Field Hosp 3rd Army**, Washington, 9/12-14, Dwaine R. Lewis, (909) 676-8541; **68th AAA Gun**

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213th ASHC, San Antonio, 11/7-11, Lorinda Boyle, (888) 750-7447, lorenda@sunsetcruises.com; **224th Heavy Mortar Co**, Las Vegas, 9/19-23, Bob Humble, (626) 966-6897, rih1930@aol.com; **254th FA Bn**, Fremont, OH, 9/3-5, Earle Schwark Sr., (440) 884-4323; **260th Arty Grp 260th, 340th, 380th AA/CA/AAA (WWII & Korea)**, Silver Spring, MD, 10/16, E. Wayne Brizendine, (301) 770-7876, ewbriz@aol.com; **264th FA Bn (WWII)**, Florence, KY, 8/19-21, Bob Latz, (330) 493-4657, favet@mindspring.com; **280th Eng Cbt Bn**, Washington, 9/9-12, Marlin Kreighbaum, (309) 691-9410, mkreigh235@aol.com; **313th Inf 79th Cross of Lorraine Div**, Pittsburgh, 7/19-20, Joseph Napoli, (410) 668-8469; **325th Glider Inf Assn**, Sandusky, OH, 9/29-10/2, Leonard Weinstein, (216) 382-5132; **330th FA Bn**, Auburn, IN, 9/14-16, Raymond Krider, (260) 745-4412, skippy30@worldnet.att.net

337th-1338th Cbt Eng (Italy, WWII), Wheeling, WV, 8/12-15, James White, (727) 942-3179; **407th Cbt Eng Bn**, Columbia, MO, 9/23-26, Louis Van Drie Sr., (573) 442-4234, cat0746@mchsi.com; **428th Mil Police Escort Co**, Atlanta, 9/24-26, J.W. Burson, (770) 786-2219, jwandruthburs@aol.com; **434th, 435th, 532nd, 900th AA 473rd Inf Rgt**, Wichita, KS, 9/3-5, LeRoy Good, (765) 659-1256; **461st Inf Bn**, Norfolk, VA, 9/22-26, William Thomas, (972) 387-1247, jnickerson@capitalsouthwest.com; **489th Port Bn**, Rock Island, IL, 9/14-16, John Reynolds, (309) 788-8810; **508th AAA Opns Det**, Midland, TX, 9/23-26, Cliff Schlesinger, (432) 694-6653; **509th Eng (PB) (Vietnam)**, St. Charles, IL, 8/6-8, Gary A. Beck, (630) 377-4355, gbeck@dukcorp.com; **538th Ord MAM Co (Korea, 1950-1955)**, Las Vegas, 9/13-15, William Olynky, (702) 434-1606, forwildone@cox.net

548th AAA AW Bn, Grand Rapids, MI, 6/25-27, Bill Evans, (239) 394-7638; **602nd USASA Det (Schofield Barracks, HI, 1969-1970)**, 9/2, Paul Foley, (817) 596-4529; **712th Trans Railway Operating Bn**, Peoria, IL, 9/12-16, Robert Shannon, (910) 949-3920; **761st Tank Bn**, Washington, 8/26-29, Floyd Dade, (415) 753-2511; **843rd Sig Svc Bn**, Cedar Rapids, IA, 10/7-10, Arnold Freitag, ajfreitag@cfu.net; **931st Sig Bn Avn Spec (China/Burma/India, WWII)**, 9/29-10/2, Alvis Lum, (580) 429-3705; **1108th Eng Com Grp 48th, 235th ECB**, Portage, WI, 9/9-12, Frank Bottoni, (608) 742-2787, engnrbot@jvlnet.com; **8125th Sentry Dog Det (Korea, 1954-1955)**, Branson, MO, 10/14-18, Gene Rath, (402) 571-7680; **8221st Army Unit Assn (Korea, 1950-1954)**, Branson, MO, Ken Paulson, (763) 261-2333; **A Co 1st Bn 31st Inf 7th Inf Div**, Branson, MO, 9/24-25, Howard Payne, (870) 863-9261, paynehoward@hotmail.com

AZ Army Sec Agency, Payson, AZ, 8/13-15, Jack Waer, (928) 476-2327, jackwaer@cybertrails.com; **B Co 9th AIB 6th Armd Div**, Williamsburg, VA, 7/22-25, Ralph Grogan, (757) 898-5803; **B Co 503rd MP Bn 3rd Army (WWII)**, Peter Joseph, (207) 872-2225; **C Co 31st Eng Bn (Vietnam, 1968-1970)**, Branson, MO, 8/12-15, Forrest Pearish Jr., (417) 781-2584, fepearish@joplin.com;

F Co 39th Inf Rgt 9th Inf Div (WWII), Wichita, KS, 9/23-26, James Brown, (316) 524-3780; **G Co 119th Inf 30th Inf Div**, Luray, VA, 9/16-18, Jack Mace, (770) 590-7945; **K Co 387th Rgt 97th Div**, Syracuse, NY, 9/9-11, George Schmid, (315) 463-8765; **L Co 411th Inf 103rd Div**, Detroit, 9/23-25, Ralph Sulek, (313) 389-2365, darasu@juno.com; **Merrill's Marauders**, St. Louis, 9/3-5, Ray Lyons, 11244 N. 33rd St., Phoenix, AZ 85028; **Ret Army Finance Officers**, Las Vegas, 10/8-11, J. Claud Wallace, (903) 983-2834, jclaudwall@aol.com; **Ret Army Finance Noncom Officers**, Las Vegas, 10/8-11, Harry Miller, (303) 841-7091, hmiller90@aol.com; **VII Corps LRRP Co Abn (Nellingen, Germany, 1961-1969)**, Tacoma, WA, 7/31-8/4, Joe Chetwynod, (781) 826-2259, khgibson@paonline.com; **VIII Corps 29th Inf Rgt 1st Bde Cbt (Fort Benning, GA)**, Houston, TBA, Roy Young, (713) 942-2066

COAST GUARD

USCGC Androscoggin WHEC 68 (1967-1968), Charleston, SC, 9/16-20, Jim Bridges, (843) 766-1060; **USS Arthur Middleton APA 25**, Frankfort, KY, 10/21-24, Len Suter, (502) 695-4029; **USS Leonard Wood Grp**, New Orleans, 10/4-8, Gene Hoski, (734) 254-0844; **USS Merrill DD 392**, Milwaukee, 9/14-18, Robert Fanello, (847) 272-2391

JOINT

2nd, 4th & 7th Beach Bns, Roanoke, VA, 9/4-9, Julius Shoulars, (757) 853-4061, jes7rubi@infionline.net; **Nat'l Assn of Atomic Vets**, San Diego, 9/26-29, William Harper, (480) 895-0676, pbharper@mindspring.com; **Northeast USA Vietnam Vets Assn**, Freehold, NY, 7/30-8/1, John Kellegher, (518) 634-7748, jkk2897@aol.com; **Project SHAD/112 (1962-1970)**, Seattle, 6/26-27, Frank Tetro, (360) 876-0352, ricebely@juno.com; **Tan Son Nhut Assn**, Bourbonnais, IL, 7/21-25, Dean Gard, Robert Need, (757) 627-7746, hercules29@worldnet.att.net; **USS Mount McKinley AGC/LCC 7**, Branson, MO, 9/8-12, Patrick Tracy, (989) 687-6288, paddytom1@aol.com; **Vietnam Vets**, Freehold, NY, 7/30-8/1, John Kellegher, (518) 634-7748, jkk2897@aol.com

MARINES

1st Armd Amph Bn (WWII), Oklahoma City, 10/6-9, Robert Schwaninger, (405) 354-3173; **2nd Bn 1st Mar Rgt 1st Mar Div (Korea)**, Seattle, 8/25-28, R.L. Payne, 6319 89th Ave. W., Tacoma, WA 98467, korea2bn1mar2004@yahoo.com; **3rd Bn 1st Mar (Vietnam)**, Louisville, KY, 10/4-6, Tim Johnson, (317) 783-7351, nlj2002@webtv.net; **3rd Joint Sig Co 3rd Mar Div (WWII)**, Albuquerque, NM, 10/14-16, Elmer Kreutzer, (928) 474-3791, afrcelmer@cybertrails.com; **C-1-7 1st Mar Div (Korea, 1950-1953)**, Albuquerque, NM, 10/21-24, Bill Farrell, (203) 318-1889; **India Co 3/7 (1969-1970)**, Washington, 8/11-15, Roger Villarreal, (281) 930-8161, rogervillarreal@hotmail.com; **"Marines of Long Ago" Schools Demo Trps (Quantico, VA, 1950-1954 & Camp Gifu, Japan, 1953-1957)**, Charleston, SC, 11/8-12, Joe "Red" Cullen, (203) 877-0846, aircooledmg7@aol.com

MAWS-7/MGCIS-7/MACS-7, Oklahoma City, 9/29-10/3, Bill Young, (580) 223-6435, bgyoung6@juno.com; **Mike Btry 4th Bn 12th Mar 3rd 155 Howitzer Btry 3rd Mar Div FMF**, Las Vegas, 9/20-23, Joel Schuette, (760) 471-9756, burntorangejoel@aol.com; **Tri-State Mar Det 494 Mar Corps League**, Youngstown, OH, 8/21, Frank Griffiths, (330) 533-2314; **USS Philippine Sea CV 47 Mar Det**, Harbor Springs, MI, 9/12-16, Ralph Lund, (215) 345-6430, ralplm@aol.com; **VMF(N)-541 "Bateye Sqdn"**, San Diego, 9/19-21, John G. Devine, (570) 875-0898

NAVY

3rd Bn Seabees, Seattle, 9/29-10/2, Dwayne

Blondin, (360) 379-0736; **63rd NCB**, Columbia, MO, 9/9-12, John Morris, (262) 569-0770; **123rd NCB**, Williamsburg, VA, 8/5-8, Dan Sullivan, (716) 826-4688; **AGC All Ships Reunion**, Hebron, KY, 9/16-18, W. Ted Branthoover, (412) 884-2650; **Chuting Stars Navy Parachute Teams (El Centro, Pensacola & Lakehurst)**, Colorado Springs, CO, 9/23-26, Ed Kruse, (952) 322-1954, edkrusemn@aol.com; **Co 158 (Great Lakes NTC, May-Aug 1961)**, Curt Taylor, (330) 966-3835, ctaylor@co.stark.oh.us; **DESLANT Baseball Team (1952-1956)**, Pensacola, FL, 9/9-12, Ken Spencer, (850) 492-8384, kespencer@earthlink.net; **Dest Escort Sailors Assn**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 9/26-30, Dori Glaser, (386) 738-6900; **Dest Div 59/60 – USS Bernadou DD 153, USS Cole DD 155, USS Dupont DD 152, USS Ellis DD 154, USS Dallas DD 199**, Omaha, NE, 9/9-12, Louis Segal, (310) 391-0825, loumarg2@triton.net

Escort Carrier Sailors & Airmen Assn, Braintree, MA, 9/19-22, John Smith, (515) 289-1467, jwspauli@aol.com; **MCB 7**, Toledo, OH, 9/23-26, Denny Blaisdell, (419) 241-3000, dennybee@access.toledo.com; **Mich USS LCI Vets**, Dearborn, MI, 9/28-29, Sam Rizzo, (313) 886-5374, lcisam@juno.com; **NAS (Twin Cities)**, Minneapolis, 8/28, Jack Iverson, (952) 322-1249, thetarjei@charter.net; **Navy Mail Serv Vets Assn**, Arlington, VA, 9/7-12, John Smerdon, (415) 333-6865, bjsmerdon@aol.com; **USS Adirondack AGC 15**, Erlanger, KY, 9/15-19, Ted Branthoover, (412) 884-2650, agc15and16@webtv.net; **USS Alcor AD 34**, Savannah, GA, 9/26-29, Janet Statts, (770) 443-3583; **USS Anderson DD 411**, Lacrosse, WI, 9/10-12, Richard Taylor Sr., (608) 847-5618; **USS Arizona BB 39**, Tucson, AZ, 12/1-6, Joe Campbell, (520) 529-7494, rcmpbl@comcast.net; **USS Arlington AGMR 2**, Mobile, AL, 10/6-10, Ken Cox, (517) 639-7376, kecox@yahoo.com

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8th Inf Div H Co 61st Rgt (Fort Carson, CO & Germany, 1956-1958), Wilson Hoffman, (610) 845-2443

10th Inf Div C Co 86th Rgt (Schweinfurt, Germany, 1955-1958), Doug Hilbrands, (712) 475-3400, drhilbrands@frontiernet.net

24th S&T Bn (Augsburg, Germany, 1966-1970), Robert Hines Jr., (781) 828-8099

43rd Div HQ Finance Sect (Augsburg, Germany, Jan 1952-Dec 1953), Thomas Kujala, (906) 293-5859

44th CB (Pacific, WWII), Addison Jones, (706) 663-4851

50th Ord Co (Kaiserslautern, Germany, 1959-1960), Frank Kemper, (732) 634-2413

67th AAA Gun Bn (El Paso, TX, & Germany, 1949-1954), Dale Minor, (559) 582-6185

90th Strat Recon Wing (Forbes AFB, Topeka, KS, 1950-1961), Chuck Hale, (785) 865-5794, chuckhale@earthlink.net

101st Abn Div Movement Cont Ctr (Camp Eagle, Vietnam, 1969-1971), Rich Hosking, (480) 802-9032

144th Sig Bn A Co 4th Armd Div (Cooke Barracks, Geopingen, Germany, 1962-1965), Bill Middlestate, (315) 543-2793

146 Hosp Ship Tasman (WWII), Bruce Keyser, (215) 362-2942, whiteducks@zimplip.com

440th ASF Band (Halleran Gen Hosp, Staten Island, NY, Jan-June 1946), J.C. Bennett, (602) 279-2030

458th Ord Evac Co (Europe, Aug 1943-Nov 1945), Glenn Halloway, (660) 963-2295

517th Ord HM FA (US & Pacific, 1943-1946), Joseph Menegus, (908) 475-2895

523rd Eng Pipeline Co (Korea, 1953-1954), Harold Echernacht, (660) 762-4233

525th FIS (Landstuhl & Bitburg, Germany, 1955-1970), Albert "Mike" Mikuski, (802) 254-6297, mikedcarols25fis@cheshire.net

585th, 36th K-9 (1960-1965), Jerry Zill, (702) 896-1909, vegas_jer@cox.net

595th SAW Bn (Pandi, Philippines, 1944-1945), Robert Miller, (315) 762-4255

708th Ord Bn C Co (Mannheim, Germany, 1961-1964), Paul Kline, pkline@socket.net

934th Sig Bn 5th Cmn Grp (Korea, 1950-1953), Chuck Siegmund, 1400 Foxwood Drive, Jacksonville, AR 72076, sparkyarky@comcast.net

3317th Tng Sqdn Class 19092A Airframe Repair (Amarillo AFB, TX, Sept 1962-Jan 1963), Tracey Crozier, (423) 421-6833

3380th Student Tng Sqdn (Biloxi, MS, Mar-Oct 1954), Dwaine Palm, dwaine_palm@yahoo.com

7508th Air Police Sqdn (Brize Norton, England, 1952-1955), Fred Boring, (863) 299-0361, fgbm@juno.com

A Co 1st Bn 31st Inf 7th Inf Div "Bearcats" (Camp Casey, Korea, 1962), Howard Payne, (870) 863-9261, paynehoward@hotmail.com

B Co 3rd Bn 77th Armor 5th Div "Red Diamond" (Fort Devens, Camp Drum & Fort Stewart, 1962-1964), Douglas "Dick" Dixon Sr., (812) 825-9759

C Co 370th Eng Bt Bn (Panama & Labrador, 1951-1953), Quent Kottscik, (320) 532-3390

Co 343 (Great Lakes NTC, Sept 1950), Russ Riley, (740) 983-9835, barbarariley@earthlink.net

C Trp 3rd Sqdn 8th Cav 8th Inf Div (Coleman Barracks, Mannheim, Germany, 1969-1972), Paul Heitritter, (563) 245-1424, paul.heitritter@us.army.mil

D Co 1/12 Inf 4th Inf Div (Vietnam, 1967-1968), Don Hiemstra, (262) 728-2842, woodenshoe@elknet.net

Flt 2696 USAF Basic Tng (Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Jan-Apr 1948), Jim Roe, (254) 836-4074, jamesroe3@netzero.com

H Trp 17th Cav 198th Bde "Hail Raisers" (Vietnam, Jan 1969-Jan 1972), Fred Fields, (859) 987-1486

HQ 3rd Msl Bn 65th Arty AD (Warrensville Station, OH, 1964-1966), Harold Goettner, (410) 239-3730, yancy97@aol.com

MACG-18 H&HS-18 (Vietnam, Jan 1970-Apr 1971), Rick Hrymecki, (989) 460-1315

Mike Btry 4th Bn 12th Mar 3rd 155 Howitzer Btry 3rd Mar Div FMF, Joel Schuette, (760) 471-9756, burntorangjoel@aol.com

Nav Tng Class 55-07 (Harlingen AFB, TX), Jim Mach, (509) 935-6860, jandmmach@inwi.net

Plt 1096 (MCRD San Diego, Nov-Dec 1943), F.E. "Rick" Reichert, 19037 Sombrero Circle, Sun City, AZ 85373

Staff Judge Advocate (HQ Fort Bragg, NC, 1978 & Frankfurt/am Main, 1978-1982), Bill Mackowiak, (630) 889-1660, bill.mackowiak@ssa.gov

USAREUR Pistol & Rifle Team (1962-1963), Paul Seguin, 118 Grand Oak Circle, Venice, FL 34292, psncs@juno.com

USN Fleet Hosp 112 "Sacred 50" (Sept 1943-Sept 1945), Jim Buckley, (301) 530-5679

USS Coral Sea CVA 43 V-3 Div (1963-1965), David Shannon, (918) 333-3095

USS Harwood DD 861 (Damage Cont

Firemen, Vietnam, Jan-May 1971), Keith Grimme, (859) 781-4031

USS Rankin AKA/LKA 103 (1945-1971), Lou Sander, (412) 367-1376, ussrankin@aol.com

USS Satterlee DD 626, Bernard McNaughton, (301) 725-3505, bernieka3vuww@aol.com

USS Towhee AGS 28 (1965-1969), Larry Pellegrino, (907) 696-1825, larry.pellegrino@elmendorf.af.mil

USS YMS 303 (South Pacific, 1943-1946), George "Sparky" Matthis, (919) 676-9436, gmatthis@ipass.net

VIII Corps 29th Inf Rgt 1st Bde Cbt Motor Patrol (Fort Benning, GA, 1959-1962), Roy Young, (713) 942-2066

Yankee Div 101st FA Serv Co (WWII), William Warner, (269) 795-7017

TAPS

Don S. Banks, Dept. of Washington. Nat'l Defense Preparedness Cmte. Nat'l Cmdr.'s Rep. 1986-1991, Dept. Cmdr. 1991-1992 and Nat'l Naval Affairs Cmte. Memb. 1999-2004.

Willard H. Dunn, Dept. of Washington. Nat'l Conv. Cmsn. Advisory Board Memb. 1978-1979, Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1981-1983, Nat'l Res. Assignment Cmte. Memb. 1981-1984, Nat'l Exec. Cmte.

Memb. 1983-1985 and Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1983-1985.

Tillson L. Gorsuch, Dept. of Colorado. Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1956-1957 and 1961-1963, Nat'l Trans. Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1960-1961, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1984-1985, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1986-1987, Dept. Cmdr. 1987-1988, Nat'l Homeland Security Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1988-1989, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Exec. Sect. Memb. 1989-1995 and VA Volunteer Serv. Rep. 2002-2004.

Bruce Percy, Dept. of New York. American Legion Endowment Fund Corp. Memb. 1948-1952, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1950-1951, Dept. Cmdr. 1952-1953, Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1952-1954, Nat'l Sec. Cmsn. Memb. 1953-1971, and Nat'l Sec. Cmsn. Vice Chmn. 1962-1963 and 1968-1970.

Edward Wysocki, Dept. of New Jersey. Nat'l Rehab. Cmsn. Advisory Board Memb. 1958-1960, Dept. Cmdr. 1960-1961, Nat'l Vice Cmdr. 1961-1962, Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1961-1962 and Nat'l Aerospace Cmte. Memb. 1962-1986.

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Every town has gossip. If you don't hear any, you're it.

TWO BOYS from the city were on a camping trip. The mosquitoes were so fierce that the boys had to hide under their blankets to keep from being bitten. Then one of them saw some fireflies and said to his friend, "We might as well give up. They're coming at us with flashlights!"

ACCORDING TO HOLLYWOOD

- The ventilation system of any building is the perfect hiding place. No one will ever think of looking for you inside, and you can travel to any other part of the building without difficulty.
- You're likely to survive any battle of any war unless you make the mistake of showing someone a picture of your sweetheart back home.
- All beds have special L-shaped cover sheets that reach up to armpit level on a woman but only to waist level on the man lying beside her.
- If being chased through town, you can usually take cover in a passing St. Patrick's Day parade at any time of the year.
- All bombs are fitted with



"I need time to consider your fabulous offer. Give me your number, and I'll call you back tomorrow night during dinner."



"Wow. I hope it didn't ram the boat."

electronic timing devices with large red readouts so you know exactly when they're going to go off.

- A detective can solve a case only when he has been suspended from duty.
- Medieval peasants had perfect teeth.
- Any person waking from a nightmare will bolt upright and pant.
- It is always possible to park directly outside any building you are visiting.
- When paying for a taxi, don't look at your wallet as you take out a bill. Just grab one at random and hand it over. It will always be the exact fare.

A MAN slowly hobbled into the doctor's waiting room, bent almost double, grasping a cane in one gnarled claw. Another patient looked on sympathetically. "Arthritis with complications?" the patient asked.

"No," the man replied. "Do-it-yourself with cinderblocks!"

SILLY SIGNS

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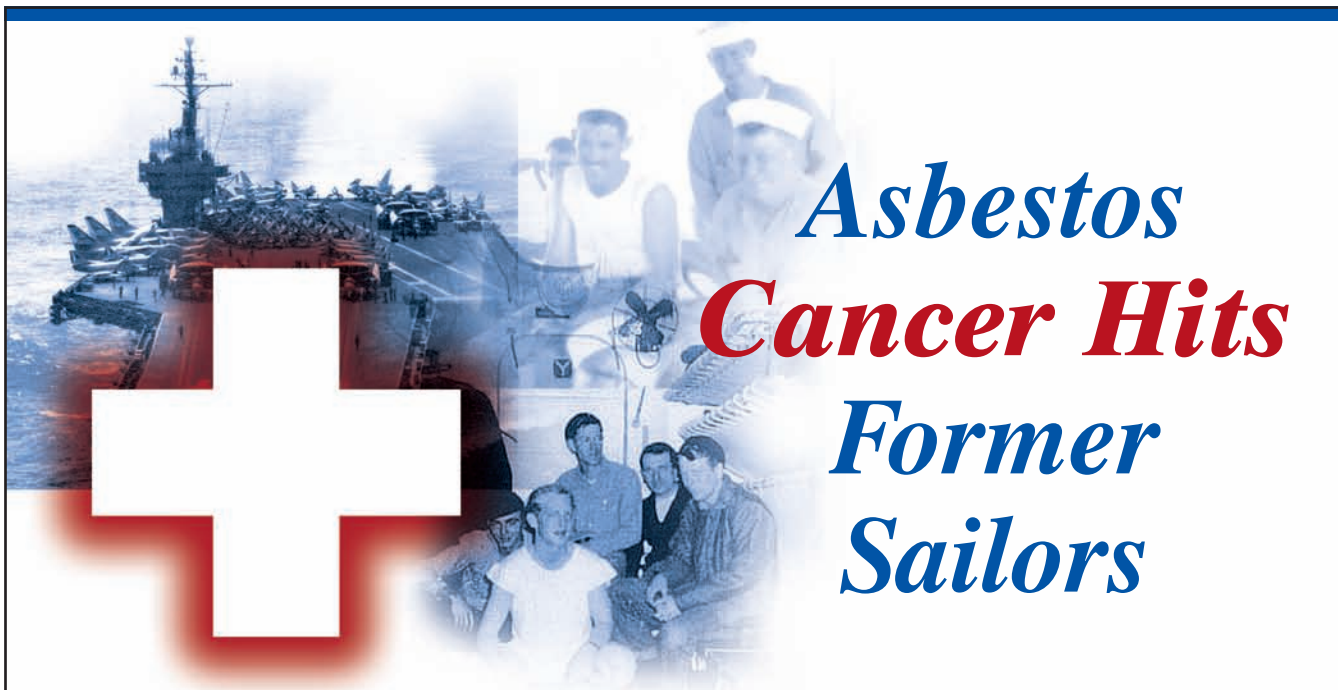
"I have to admit - you do a great impression of the man."

needed immediately. Big bucks possible!"

- At a golf course: "Putt an end to your troubles."
- On a tire company: "Our tires will give your car good traction on wet roads. We skid you not!"
- At a taxi company: "We drive away all our customers."
- On an oil rig: "We do a fuel day's work."

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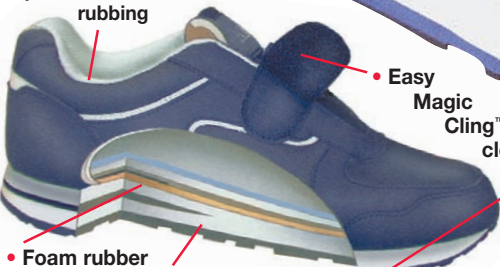
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